**Entertainment / A2-1**

GMA 7 suspends Goma for using vulgar words

**■ Business / B4**

2 more oil firms jack up prices

**■ Across / A17**

Gambling lords go hi-tech in GenSan, elude police

**■ Metro / A22**

155 farmers arrested in land reform office siege

**■ News/ A2**

Bunye: I acted in good faith

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Stocks, peso tumble amid political tension

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Doris Dumlao

INVESTORS yesterday dumped local stocks and the peso amid allegations of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo and charges that her family had pocketed payoffs from "jueteng" lords.

STOCKS/ A21

## DOJ cracks down on media outlets playing 'GMA tape'

By Armand N. Nocum and Dona Pazzibugan

HIS EARLIER warnings having been ignored, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is ready to throw the book at press and media

DOJ CRACKS/ A21

NAKU!!!MA-
TATABUNAN
ANG ISYU SA
JUETENG!

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Friday, June 10, 2005 ★★ 84 pages 11 sections Vol. 20 No. 182 P18

website: www.inq7.net

# Nene tells GMA: Resign

## Palace rejects call for snap poll, says senator dreaming

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

**SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday sounded a call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, saying she should step down for the sake of the nation.**

Pimentel said that because "they were both elected under questionable circumstances," Vice President Noli de Castro should resign along with Ms Arroyo, after which Senate President Franklin Drilon should serve as "acting President."

Drilon will then be "duty-bound" to call for the election of a new president and vice president, he said, adding:

"The country cannot go leaderless even for a week, much less for the next five years."

Malacañang rejected Pimentel's call as wishful thinking, saying the President would not resign.

Pimentel issued the call in the middle of the Senate inquiry into the "jueteng" scandal, in which witness Sandra Cam claimed to have personally handed payoffs to the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

He said the President had "no credibility left in her whole body from head to toe" in view of testimony linking the First Family, including her husband, to jueteng, as well as an audio tape suggesting that Ms Arroyo had rigged the results of the 2004 presidential election.

"The jueteng scandal has reached the ramparts of Malacañang. While there is no direct evidence as yet linking her to jueteng, the web of evidence is fast closing in on her," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said the "smoking gun" on the alleged poll fraud had "demolished whatever claims to legality she had to a new electoral mandate."

He added that resignation was the only "honorable course of action" left for Ms Arroyo and De Castro "to clear the way for the holding of new elections."

But Ms Arroyo put up a brave face.

"I will not allow those who are out to topple [me to] succeed in bringing down my government, and I will not allow them to weaken my ability to govern," she calmly said over radio station dzRH.

She said there was no reason for her to doubt the loyalty of the mili-

NENE/ A21

PEKENG PANGULO
PEKENG PANGULO
PEKENG PANGULO
GLORIA
Patalsikin na!

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal (left) reacts strongly to pressing issues during an interview over radio station dzRH. Among the issues is her supposed wiretapped conversation with an election official, the transcript of which is being spread through e-mail (right) by University of the Philippines students.

EDWIN BACASMAS/JOAN BONDOC

### SENATE 'JUETENG' PROBE

## Witness says payoff to Mikey made at Session Hall

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SHE PICKED out the son of President Macapagal-Arroyo from a group of congressmen in *barong* Tagalog chatting during a break in the House assembly hall and approached him. He was in a brown suit over a yellow shirt.

She knew him from photographs in newspapers and television news footage.

"Excuse me, Congressman. I am Sandra Cam," she said.

Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo peeled off from his colleagues to attend to the woman. She then handed to him a gift-wrapped box containing ₱500,000. She said she had wrapped the box personally, making it look beautiful so it would not appear as though it contained payola money.

"'Thank you. OK,'" she recalled the congressman as telling her.

The fleeting encounter in the House session hall happened one day in the second or third week of December. Cam recounted it at the resumption of the Senate inquiry into the "jueteng" controversy, providing the first direct evidence implicating the President's son and brother-in-law in the scandal.

The 45-year-old Cam appeared at the Senate one day after she gave an exclusive interview broadcast by ABS-CBN in which she outlined how she was asked by Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda to open a bank account for him so he could get P3.5 million in monthly jueteng payoffs, including P1 million for Mikey Arroyo and his uncle, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

Mosqueda then had just been assigned as regional police commander in Bicol and, according to Cam, he said he had to produce P1 million for "the King."

She said Mosqueda delivered the money personally to the Arroyos in Congress each month.

However, on that one day last December, Cam said she received a telephone call from Mosqueda,

WITNESS / A4

## 'Liar queen' or brave fighter?

By Michael Lim Ubac

ENEMIES call Sandra Martinez-Cam a swindler, a racketeer, a woman who had sordid love affairs with police officials.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo says she is a "liar queen offering a fantastic fable" after she accused him and his uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, of receiving "jueteng" payola in her testimony before a Senate committee yesterday.

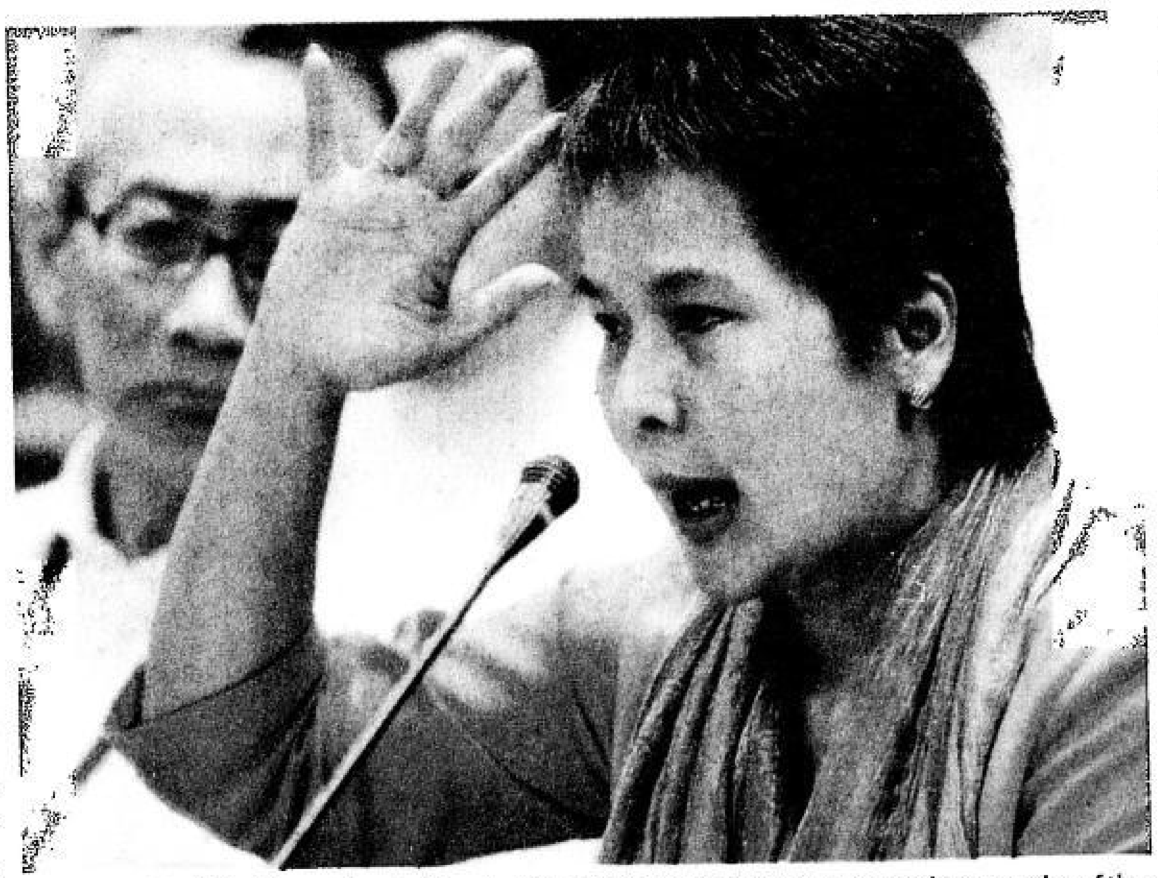
Province-mates describe Cam as a fighter unafraid of the politically influential Espinosa clan, that she was always in the forefront of crusades for good government.

"*Maisog-isog ina. Supak pa* (She's very brave)," said a high

LIAR QUEEN/ A8

### June 13 holiday

JUNE 13, Monday, is a special nonworking holiday throughout the country, Malacañang announced last night. The declaration was contained in Proclamation No. 856 signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.



**THE LATEST** whistle-blower, Sandra Cam, testifies on "jueteng" payola at yesterday's resumption of the Senate hearing on the illegal numbers scandal.

JESS YUSON

## 2 Arroyos plan to file libel suit

By Volt Contreras and Luige del Puerto

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, yesterday tried to put on a cool, even jovial, front, issuing a blanket denial of "jueteng" bagwoman Sandra Cam's allegations that she had personally delivered to them payoffs from the illegal numbers racket.

In a joint press conference, the two Arroyos insisted they had neither seen nor met Cam before her appearance yesterday at the Senate jueteng inquiry.

They said they would sue Cam for libel for the allegations she made in a television interview on Wednesday on the eve of yesterday's hearing.

"Her statements are completely and patently false. It is Sandra Cam who should be investigated and charged criminally," said Iggy Arroyo, reading from a prepared statement.

He also maintained that he had "no regular contact" with retired Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, alleged by Cam to have been the one who ordered her to deliver the money to the Arroyos.

Iggy said the only occasions he had come across Mosqueda were during House budget hearings and when he would "sometimes

2 ARROYOS/ A8

## Bagwoman says Iggy faked 'Jose Pidal' signature

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GHOST of the "Jose Pidal" scandal is back to haunt the First Family with a confessed "jueteng" bagwoman telling the Senate how President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband managed to avoid being pinned for the P270-million secret bank accounts.

Businesswoman Sandra Cam, who testified yesterday in the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket, said she had learned that Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo had faked the signature of his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and claimed the bank accounts as his.

She said retired Chief Supt. Restituto Patricio Mosqueda, then Bicol regional police director, had bragged that the Arroyo administration would have gone down the drain if he had not certified Ignacio Arroyo's Jose Pidal signature as authentic.

"You may not know it, but I was the director of the crime lab during the Jose Pidal case. And it took weeks for Rep. Iggy Arroyo to practice doing the First Gentleman's signature," Cam quoted Mosqueda as saying in a mixture of Filipino and English.

She said Mosqueda had told her that as director of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, he certified that Ignacio Arroyo's signature as Jose Pidal was authentic.

That signature helped save Mike Arroyo from the scandal that broke nine months before his wife ran and won a full six-year term as President. Ignacio Arroyo later capitalized on the Pidal stigma to win a seat in the House of Representatives.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who had accused the First Gentleman in April 2003 of amassing millions of pesos in campaign contributions for his wife and hiding the money in the Jose Pidal accounts, said Cam's revelation was literally hair-raising.

He said he would file a resolution to reopen the case, which he said had been stonewalled in the Senate blue ribbon committee after Ignacio Arroyo claimed ownership of the accounts and later

BAGWOMAN / A4

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will have occasional rains becoming frequent over Northern and Western Luzon. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/10/05

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

BUNYE with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco

# 'I acted in good faith'

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said he would be staying on as the presidential spokesperson despite his admission he may have committed a faux pas when he identified President Macapagal-Arroyo as the voice in a taped conversation now damaging her presidency.

Absent from the Palace for two days, Bunye surfaced yesterday to take the blame for the release of two compact discs that he claimed proved the opposition had wiretapped Ms Arroyo and manipulated her conversations to make it appear that she had talked about rigging the May 2004 polls.

His action drew much criticism, particularly because he had prematurely identified the President as the voice in the CDs without any proof.

At yesterday's news briefing, Bunye did not appear affected by the criticism, even managing to pull a fast one on reporters when he made them believe he was announcing his resignation.

Bunye said he was absent the other day because he had a medical checkup, during which he "had plenty of time to think about the situation."

As he unfolded a sheet of paper, he said: "I have come to a very hard decision and I have prepared and I have signed and I am about to submit my letter of... reimbursement." This drew laughter from the reporters as he showed them the piece of paper which had "Got You" written on it.

Turning serious, Bunye admitted he took a "calculated risk" when he released the two CDs but said he thought the risk was "worth it."

He said he did not clear the CDs' release with the President and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita but decided to play them to the media after a radio station aired the CD where the President was allegedly talking to an election official about rigging the polls.

"I acted on good faith and thought that based on the circumstances, what I did was the correct thing to do," Bunye said.

He said that later, he did tell the President and Ermita what he had done and since he did not see any indication of disapproval from them, he took this to mean that "my action had been ratified."

But he admitted he may have made a mistake when he said the voice on the CD belonged to Ms Arroyo.

"I believe I said the voice appeared to be [that] of the President, but I could [have been] wrong because... of the technology we have," he said. "I'm aware that through digital manipulation, you could alter the voices of people."

That was why he gave the CDs to the National Bureau of Investigation, he said.

Bunye said the CDs were delivered to his home in Alabang and were in an envelope marked "confidential." He said he did not stay at his Alabang home all the time and an aide went there regularly to pick up his mail and bring these to his office, which was where he first saw the envelope on his desk last Monday.

Asked if he thought he had harmed the President by his action, Bunye said he did not think so.

He also said he had not offered to resign. "I don't see any need to because I believe what I did was correct," he said.

He said his position required the trust and confidence of the President – something he believed he still enjoyed.

"I don't think it's anybody else's business whether I stay or not," he said.

# MILF confirms presence of Bali bombers in South, joins manhunt

MUSLIM guerrillas said yesterday they were helping government troops capture two Indonesians blamed for the deadly 2002 Bali bombings and confirmed that the terror suspects were hiding near their strongholds with eight other militants.

The two suspected bombers — Pitono, also known as Dulmatin, and Umar Patek — have been sighted in a mountainous region bordering the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, often with al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf extremists, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesman Eid Kabalu said.

Kabalu spoke a day after deputy national security adviser Virtus Gil announced that the pair from the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network, which originated from Indonesia, were plotting fresh attacks and undergoing terror training in the southern Philippines.

Gil said the suspects have met with Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, and one of them, Dulmatin, was last seen near Maguindanao a few days ago.

The main Muslim separatist group, the MILF, has entered into peace talks with the government and pledged to arrest foreign militants whose presence in the rebel territory has threatened to derail negotiations to end a three-decades-old insurgency.

But Kabalu told The Associated Press that the two militants did not appear to be actively involved in plotting attacks against the government.

He said they frequently roam through hinterlands with about eight other compatriots and may have sought refuge in the region because of a two-year ceasefire between the MILF and the government.

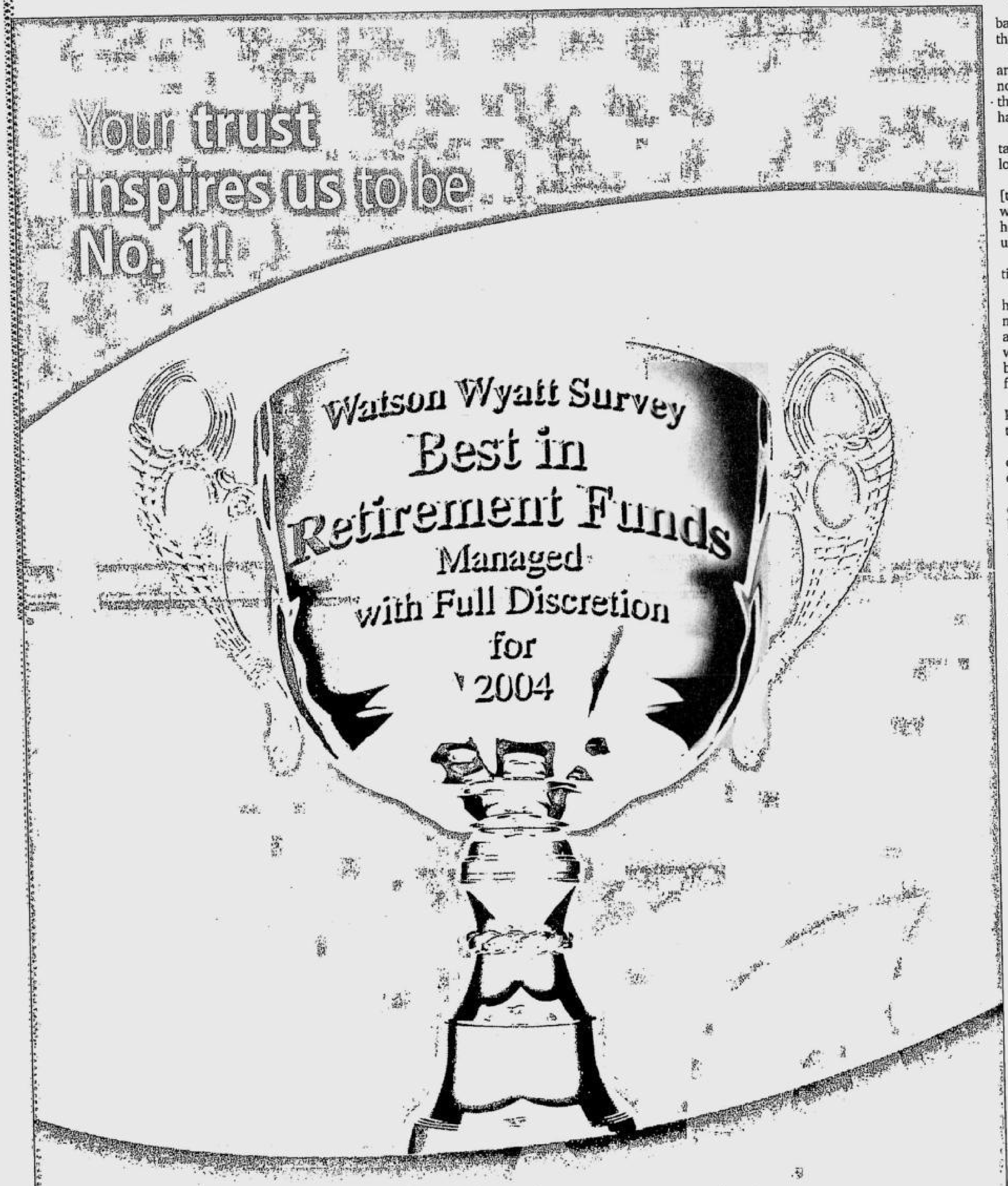
"They're here probably to rest and relax because they're being hunted down in their own homeland in Indonesia and we have this cease-fire agreement in place," Kabalu said by telephone.

"They're constantly on the move in small groups. That's a good strategy because that would make it more difficult to locate them," he said.

The MILF has been accused of providing sanctuary and training ground to Jemaah Islamiyah, and its action to help capture the two suspected bombers is seen as a crucial test for the guerrillas.

The government earlier submitted to the MILF the names and pictures of 53 suspected terrorists and criminals, including those of Dulmatin and Patek, and asked the rebels to investigate.

Kabalu said the rebels have been ordered to capture the militants. AP



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# Superbody vs tax fraud proposed

SPECIAL Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday said the government has organized a multi-agency body to run after those involved in tax fraud.

The multi-agency body is to be composed of representatives from the finance department, the revenue and customs bureaus, and the offices of the Solicitor General and the Special Prosecutor.

Villa-Ignacio said the new body would be using the extensive powers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to go after the assets of individuals found to be involved in tax-related crimes.

"We will run after tax evaders, tax scam artists and corporations fronting for Faustino Chingkoe," he said.

Chingkoe is the head of the 11-member Chingkoe group of companies accused of involvement in a massive tax credit scam that defrauded the government of billions of pesos in lost revenues. He is facing charges before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

Villa-Ignacio said the Special Prosecutor's office has already asked the justice department to speed up the proceedings to secure the extradition of members of the family of Faustino Chingkoe, including his wife Gloria, who had fled to British Columbia, Canada in 2003.

He said extradition proceedings were initiated against the Chingkoes in 2003 but have yet to be effected.

He said this was why his office would be closely working with the justice department on the matter.

"[Gloria] Chingkoe is a vital component in the transfer of Chingkoe's assets from the country to Canada," Villa-Ignacio explained.

Citing a report in the March 26 to April 6, 2005 issue of the "Asian Pacific Post," a Canadian newspaper, Villa-Ignacio said "Chingkoe and his wife Gloria Chingkoe had fled to Richmond [in British Columbia] where they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars buying up real estate."

He said the report also showed that the Chingkoes "were residing at Tolmie Street in Richmond in a house worth C$500,000."

"The couple had also invested in several other properties on Westminster highway and on Alderbridgeway in Richmond, according to property records," Villa-Ignacio said. *Nelson F. Flores*

# Joint 'jueteng' probe sought

TO AVOID "divergent" findings in the Senate and House investigations into the growing "jueteng" scandal, House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles has called for the two chambers to meld their hearings on the illegal numbers game.

In a letter to Senate Majority Floor Leader Francis Pangilinan, Nograles said the Senate and House committees on games and amusement, and public order and security, should hold joint hearings to avoid "acrimony or divergences in the evaluation of findings."

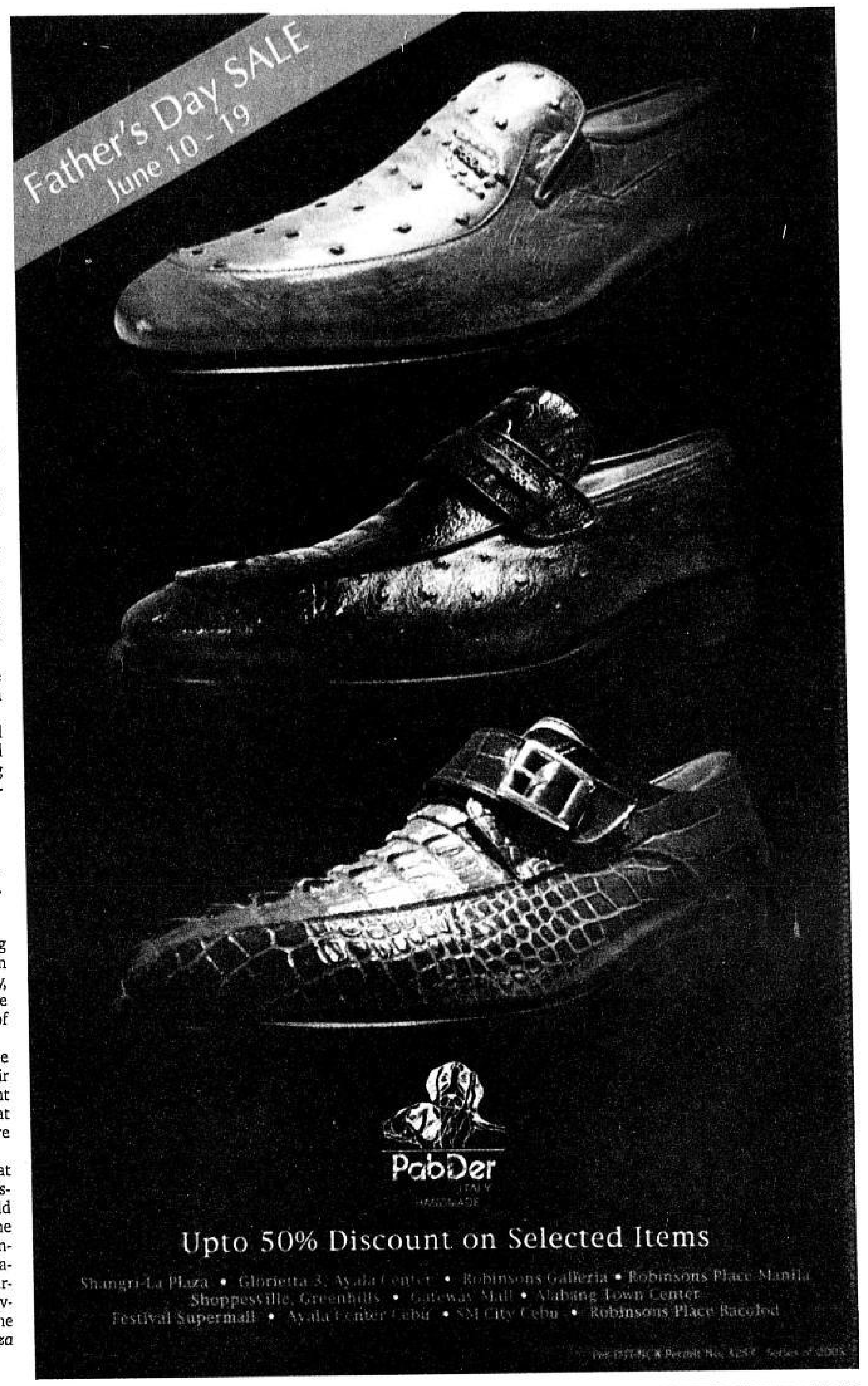
"The conduct of joint hearings will not only serve the purpose of economy in the use of resources of both chambers in the pursuit of a legislative inquiry, but shall also prevent the duplication of efforts in securing testimonies, the overlapping of schedules in the presentation of witnesses and related evidence, and acrimony or divergences in the evaluation of findings," Nograles said.

"Moreover, joint hearings will immensely facilitate the clarification of issues by focusing the concerted attention of both chambers on the most important facets of the controversy, as well as make possible a collective incisive evaluation of the veracity and credibility of testimonies and witnesses," he said.

Nograles said he and his colleagues in the House were "certain" the Senate shared their "commitment to the resolute and efficient conduct of legislative inquiries to the end that the highest interests of the nation are served."

"In so ensuring through joint hearings that the deliberations on the disposition of the issues related to the jueteng controversy would be conducted with judicious dispatch, the House and the Senate can, thereafter, meaningfully pursue the passage of priority legislative measures that will resolve the nation's urgent fiscal difficulties and strengthen the government's economic recovery efforts," he said.

*Philip C. Tubeza*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# Educators told: Don't spare the rod

**By Alcuin Papa**

IS IT time to stop sparing the rod and spoiling the child?

A group of private school administrators yesterday said the lack of discipline in the classroom was what ailed the Philippine education system.

The Federation of Associations of Private School Administrators (FAPSA) said it was time to "bring back the Yantok Mindoro (a hardwood) rod in the classroom," adding that it had observed that aside from the problem of funding, the intrinsic problem of education lay in the behavior of students.

"To assure the lesson sticks, bring out the stick. Discipline is indispensable to the successful management of the lesson. Something has to be done to arrest the decline of education and restore it to its former glory," said Eleazardo Kasilag, FAPSA head.

Kasilag said the bad attitude and behavior of students was a major setback [to learning].

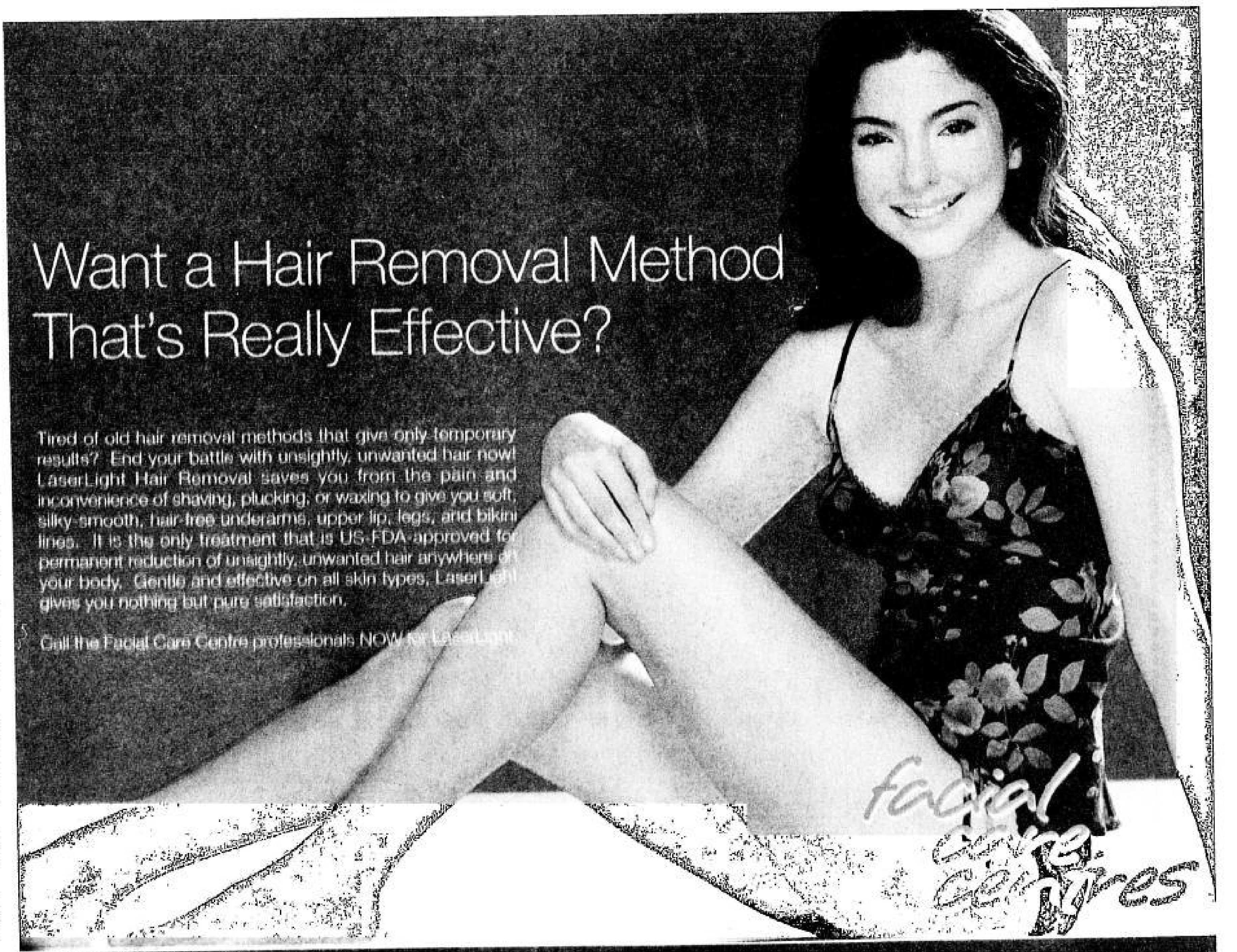
"The mischievous ones are usually the slow learners and have the effect of slowing down the progress of the class. The curious intellect of diligent students is disturbed," he said.

But Kasilag said teachers were helpless because corporal punishment was taboo in the classroom. "How can the teacher deliver quality lessons in a class of 80 students if with a little shout [at the students] a suit from human rights advocates could be slapped on him?" he said.

Kasilag, however, said FAPSA was not advocating the use of extreme violence to instill discipline among students.

"FAPSA does not mean that bullets should fly or grenades explode or students' limbs threatened but just [wants] a guarantee of undisturbed interaction between teachers and students," Kasilag said.

He also said it was easy enough to blame lack of funds as the major problem of the educational system, "but there may be something in the rod that won't spoil the child."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# Witness says payoff to Mikey made at Session Hall

From page A1

instructing her to deliver P400,000 to Iggy Arroyo and P500,000 to Mikey Arroyo.

She said Mosqueda had "problems" with the New People's Army and could not do the job himself. The police official said the Arroyos were going on a trip abroad and needed the money.

## 'Just introduce yourself'

But Mosqueda said he had to clear her mission first with the two congressmen. They were reluctant to get the payoff from an unfamiliar courier.

After two hours of back and forth on the telephone with the Arroyos, Mosqueda finally told Cam to proceed. "Just introduce yourself. They know already why you are there," Cam quoted Mosqueda as telling her.

Cam repeated the statement she made in the television interview on Wednesday. She said she put P400,000 in a brown envelope and personally gave it to Iggy Arroyo in his Congress office.

She said Iggy Arroyo opened the envelope and complained that the deal was for him to get P500,000. She explained that a typhoon had hit the region that month, preventing Mosqueda from raising the agreed amount.

"He (Iggy) looked at me straight to my eyes and said, '*Sabihin mo sa boss mo na walang bagyo-bagyo. Ang pinag-usapan ay pinag-usapan* (Tell your boss there is no such thing as storms. A deal is a deal)," Cam said.

Cam said she decided to appear in public and tell her story after a confessed bagman, Richard Garcia, named her in his Senate testimony on Tuesday as one of the payola collectors in the multibillion-peso illegal gambling industry.

## No politics here

"I am doing this to reveal the truth. I know my life is at stake here. There is no politics here," she said, looking smart in a blue pantsuit and a moss green shawl draped on her shoulder.

She was flanked by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez and Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who started the antijueteng crusade that resulted in the Senate inquiry.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the justice department to investigate Cam's allegations, saying "nobody in my family or among my kin are above the law."

The two congressmen have denied Cam's allegations. They have also said they would file libel charges against Cam.

Cam denied that she was a payola "bag lady," saying her role was simply that of a receiver of payola deposits. She was, as one senator put it, a "laundering machine."

She said she had known Mosqueda since 1998. She used to go to him when he was head of the police security office at the Camp Crame headquarters to convey requests for protection from politicians in her politically turbulent province of Masbate.

She had been a Masbate provincial board member herself. She belonged to former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa's Reporma party, which she described as "neutral."

Last year, she run for mayor of Batuan, Masbate, but lost.

Cam said the payola deposits were made by unknown persons who simply sent her text messages. She said she turned over to Mosqueda around P875,500 weekly, either in cash or through his personal account at Chinabank, although Mosqueda's deputy, Senior Supt. Rene Gumban, took the first payoffs to his commander himself.

## Media payoffs

She said that in addition to the Arroyos, she gave P10,000 monthly payoffs to a certain Boy Tangkad for the national media.

She said her involvement with jueteng ended in March. By that time, the payoffs had declined after the so-called jueteng lord in Luzon, Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, took over the illegal numbers racket in Albay and Camarines Norte.

Cam turned over photocopies of withdrawal slips from bank accounts under Worldlink Management Training Services Inc., a care-giver school she manages in Calapan and Batangas, and deposit slips to Mosqueda's bank. She said she would produce the originals if asked.

The witness said she also bought four vehicles for Mosqueda and his wife. She said she had run errands for the Mosqueda household, buying draperies for them and settling a dispute at one time with a neighbor in Mosqueda's Cavite resort.

She fended off questions insinuating that she had an affair with Mosqueda which would explain why the police official trusted her so much.

She said she received P25,000 a week from Mosqueda and, for a single mother, the money meant a lot.

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# Bagwoman ...

From page A1

refused to answer questions at the hearings.

"I just hope Sen. [Joker] Arroyo would act differently this time," Lacson said.

Senator Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, has yet to issue a report on the investigation.

Cam's bonus revelation delivered another blow to the beleaguered Arroyo administration.

It came in the middle of her 30-minute testimony on how she had personally handed P500,000 in jueteng payola to the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and P400,000 to Ignacio Arroyo last December at the House.

## Tough guy

Cam said Mosqueda used her to collect protection money in Bicol, which she said was deposited in her bank accounts by jueteng operators and which she then gave to Mosqueda either in cash or through his Metrobank and Chinabank accounts.

She said that on Oct. 28, 2004, Mosqueda showed her a confidential "white paper" on then Presidential Assistant (PA) for Bicol Affairs Mario Espinosa, which he showed to Ms Arroyo when she came two days later.

This was how Cam recounted the events:

"Sandra, let's see how tough this Mario Espinosa is," Mosqueda told her in Legazpi City.

On Oct. 30, while Mosqueda was meeting with Ms Arroyo at Hotel Venezia, he sent Cam a text message saying: "Just wait. That Mario Espinosa will now get what he asked for. I will show him my clout with the Arroyos."

After seeing Ms Arroyo off at the airport, Mosqueda proudly told police personnel that he had succeeded in having Espinosa axed as PA for Bicol.

Mosqueda said Espinosa was engaged in illegal fishing and had accused the President of having no debt of gratitude to him.

## Weeks-long practice

Per Cam's testimony, Mosqueda even presented a media man, Adam Claverria, and two companions to talk against Espinosa.

When Claverria and his companions came to Mosqueda's quarters later that evening, Mosqueda told Cam to give Claverria P30,000 and his companions P2,000 each.

Later, over a snack, Mosqueda told Cam in Filipino: "Do you know how strong I am with the Arroyos? The administration should have fallen by now."

When she asked why, Mosqueda told her about how Ignacio Arroyo had practiced signing as Jose Pidal "for weeks."

Cam said Mosqueda had told her that he was from Guimaras, and that his brother-lawyer in the United States had been Mike Arroyo's classmate.

She later corrected her statement and said it was Mosqueda himself who had been Mike Arroyo's classmate.

She said this must be the reason Mosqueda was named to a ranking position even when many good police officers could not get one.

She added that Mosqueda certainly had clout because he stayed at his post way beyond the three-month deadline for a retiring police officer.

## 'Nothing personal'

At the hearing on the Jose Pidal case, Mosqueda had vigorously defended the PNP handwriting experts who said Mike Arroyo's signatures differed significantly from the Pidal signatures.

When Lacson expressed doubt on the experts' findings, Mosqueda said nobody had influenced or forced them to make that conclusion.

"It was nothing personal," Mosqueda had said.

He said that being a former PNP chief, Lacson should have known that the findings were based on "scientific and technical procedures."

Chief Supt. Ernesto Belen, current head of the PNP crime lab, yesterday said it was always presumed that the results of lab examinations were correct.

"These are open to validation by other units," he said.. "Unless proven otherwise, they are presumed to be correct."

Belen said he saw no need to reexamine the Jose Pidal signatures. "But if ordered by the Senate or a higher body, we will do so," he said.

Mosqueda had held minor posts in the PNP before becoming chief of the crime lab.

He joined the then Philippine Constabulary in August 1971, and retired this year after 34 years in the service.

He had served as a company commander in the Visayas and later became police director of a province in Mindanao. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

# P.5-B tax assessment on appeal, says Honda

By Armand N. Nocum

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. has confirmed it had been assessed more than half a billion pesos in tax liabilities by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, but said it was contesting the matter in the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno has ordered an investigation into Honda's claim that it filed the appeal in the CTA on time, saying there were reports Honda may have been late in doing so.

"We are checking our records," Parayno said, adding that an "independent tax informer" had claimed Honda's appeal of its P589,994,109.02 tax deficiency for 2000-01 was filed after the 180-day deadline.

If Honda is found to have failed to file the appeal on time, "then the (CTA) has no choice but to throw away the petition," Parayno said, following a press briefing at the Department of Justice yesterday.

In a statement, Honda said it received a "Formal Notice of Assessment" from the BIR in July 2004. It said it filed its protest on Aug. 17, 2004, well within the 30-day period to contest the assessment.

Since the BIR failed to act on its protest, Honda said it elevated the matter to the CTA on March 15, 2005, also within the 180-day period set by law and BIR regulations.

"Thus, the questioned assessment is now pending with the CTA and, therefore, has not yet attained its finality," said the Honda statement dated June 8 and signed by Arnel Doria, assistant vice president for marketing.

But in a letter dated June 6, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, tax informer Danilo A. Lihaylihay, who uncovered Honda's alleged tax deficiency in 2002, said the CTA had "lost jurisdiction" in the case after the car firm failed to file its appeal "within the period prescribed by law."

"Records show the BIR's final assessment and demand notice of April 30, 2004, was served and received by (Honda) on May 15, 2004, but the company failed to file its administrative protest within the 30-day deadline, or up to June 15, 2004, thus rendering the BIR's deficiency ... final and executory," Lihaylihay said in his letter to Parayno.

# More tax raps vs Chinoy family

By Cynthia D. Balana

THREE members of a wealthy Chinese-Filipino family whose company, Nitoka Industrial Corp., was earlier charged with tax evasion were slapped with the same offense yesterday, this time involving another company.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue filed tax evasion charges before the Department of Justice against Thelma, Daniel and Samuel Lee after they were also found to be the former owners and officers of Pine River International Corp., a company that imported huge volumes of resins in 2002 and 2003, but did not file returns for taxes owed amounting to at least P4.8 million in 2002 and P15.5 million in 2003.

The BIR Audit Information, Tax Exemption and Incentives Division said Pine River had total importations of P248.4 million in 2002 and P899.3 million in 2003.

Information provided by the Intelligence and Enforcement Group Warehousing Audit and Monitoring Unit of the Bureau of Customs said Pine River operated as a customs bonded warehouse.

It was closed on Oct. 22, 2004, after the Securities and Exchange Commission revoked its certificate of registration on Sept. 29, 2003.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said SEC records showed the Lees later sold their shares in Pine River to Marcelino Narrido, Jose Narrido, Pablo Martinez, Manuel Fernandez and Pedro Fernandez.

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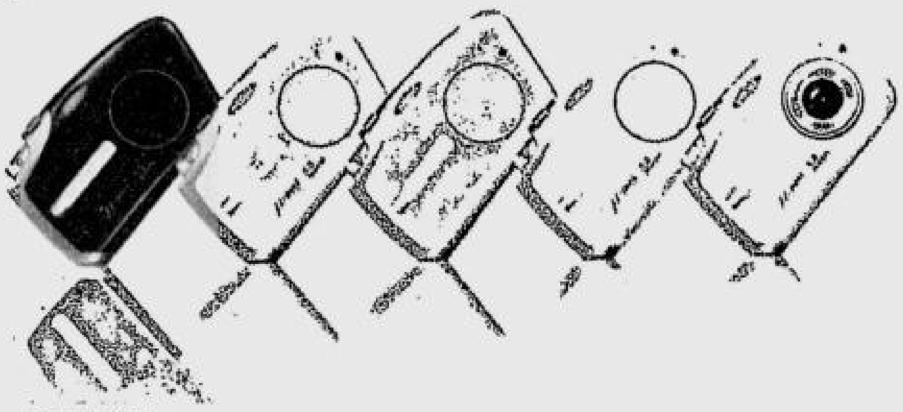

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# Nature Is Groaning

## Diocesan Social Action Centers Face the Mining Mania

**We, Diocesan Social Action Centers (DSACs) based in dioceses that are actually and has the potential to be affected by mining operations in the country, reiterate the following concrete actions that, through his letter on 31 January 2005 to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines President Archbishop Fernando Capalla asked government to institute:**

**1. Require concerned mining companies to demonstrate goodwill by cleaning up mine tailings and rehabilitating open pits. If there are ongoing efforts along this line, supply us with updates from a participative and multisectoral perspective.**

**2. Require mining companies whose prior operations were questioned on grounds of lack or absence of social acceptability to address such concerns, particularly by strictly adhering to regulations prescribed by law.**

**3. Furnish us a list of companies seeking mining permits. This must include all companies regardless of whether their applications are pending or have already been approved. Armed with the list, we will coordinate with our overseas partners to examine the track record of these companies in their home countries and areas of operation.**

**4. Supply us with concrete figures detailing projected amounts that government expects each mining company and each mine site to infuse into the economy, including amounts that will be repatriated to the home country of each mining company.**

**5. Supply us with concrete figures detailing the scope of employment that each mining operation will generate, including terms of employment citing nature, tenure and remuneration.**

**6. Prior to approval of a mining permit, require mining companies whose operations will dislocate populations to submit comprehensive and viable relocation plans that ensure decent and humane habitation.**

**7. Prior to approval of a mining permit, require mining companies to communicate objectively and honestly the beneficial and adverse effects that their operations will create.**

**8. In the interest of transparency, make records and documents produced pertaining to the foregoing requisites open to the public.**

**9. Finally, identify pro-environment and pro-poor alternatives.**

## OUR STAND

- We affirm Church Social Teachings (CSTs) on Responsible Stewardship, Universal Destination of Goods, Integrity of Creation, Human Dignity, Subsidiarity and People's Participation, Co-responsibility and Accountability, and Preferential Option for the Poor;
- We reject government laws and strategies that undermine CST values;

We believe that mining is not a foolproof remedy to poverty;

- We oppose aggressive and exploitative large-scale mining;
- We agree to small-scale mining as long as it is not treated as a primary source of income; and
- We urge government to craft pro-poor development programs that respect Philippine culture and patrimony.

Signed by 31 DSACs from mining-affected dioceses in Tagaytay City on 18-20 April 2005

## OUR ACTIVITIES

In solidarity with similarly-situated communities in the dioceses of Antipolo, Catarman, Boac, Bontoc-Lagawe, Daet, Ipil, Legazpi, Malolos, Palawan, San Jose (Oriental Mindoro), and Zambales

### LUZON

**Social Action Center of Bayombong**
**"Mining Forum"**
June 20 / Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya

**Social Action Center of Calapan**
**"Solidarity Mass"**
Open date / Diocese of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

**Social Action Center of Ilagan**
**"Mining Caravan"**
June 10, 8am-5pm / Various parishes of Isabela
Held in partnership with the Ilagan Ecumenical Conference marked by prayers, fora and declaration of statements and pastoral letters on mining. A mass will be held at the St. Ferdinand Cathedral in Ilagan prior to the caravan

### VISAYAS

**Social Action Center of Antique**
**"Radio Discussion on Mining"**
June 11, 10-12am / Diocese of Antique
Radio guesting at DYKA's *Timaan sang Panahon* program

**Social Action Center of Borongan**
**"Synchronized Solidarity Mass in Five Parishes"**
June 10 / Diocese of Borongan, Eastern Samar
To be attended by leaders and members of Basic Ecclesial Communities

**Social Action Center of Calbayog**
**"Solidarity Mass"**
Open date / Diocese of Calbayog, Samar

**Social Action Center of Jaro**
**"Solidarity Mass"**
June 10 / Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral, Jaro, Iloilo
Negros-Panay dioceses will request the CBCP to issue a statement on mining

**Social Action Center of Kabankalan**
**"Solidarity Mass"**
June 10 / St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Kabankalan
Officiated by Rev. Fr. Rolando "Rolex" Nuevo, SAC Director

**Social Action Center of Romblon**
**"Solidarity Mass"**
June 16 (Earth Day), 4pm / St. Joseph Cathedral, Romblon
Officiated by Romblon Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc

**Social Action Center of San Carlos**
**"Synchronized Solidarity Mass in 33 Parishes"**
June 10 / Diocese of San Carlos, Negros Occidental

**Social Action Center of Tagbilaran**
**"Radio Forum on Mining"**
June 11, 2:30pm / Diocese of Tagbilaran
Over DYRD' s *"Panawagan sa Kinaiyahan"* a DSAC-sponsored radio program devoted to environment advocacy. Topics: threats of large-scale mining on ecological balance, Mining Act of 1995, and E.O. 270 or the National Minerals Policy

### MINDANAO

**Social Action Centers of Davao, Digos, Tagum and Mati**
**"Mining Caravan" and "Workshop on Responsible Mining for Sustainable Development"**
June 10-12 / Davao City
June 10: Caravan starts at San Pedro Cathedral. June 11-12: mining forum to be attended by mining-affected communities from the four dioceses

**Social Action Centers of Pagadian and Ozamis**
**"Mining Caravan, Fora and Clean-Up Drive"**
June 10 / Pagadian City
Caravan starts at Sto. Niño Cathedral to be attended by the tri-people and residents of mining-affected communities. Pagadian Bishop Emmanuel Cabajar will lead the fora and clean-up drive

**Social Action Centers of Butuan, Surigao and Tandag**
**"Regional Convention on Mining and Logging"**
June 13-15 / St.John XXIII Pastoral Center, Butuan City
Resource speakers: Surigao Bishop Antonio Cabajug, Tandag Bishop Nereo Odchimar, and Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos. Participants: mining-affected communities from Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Agusan Provinces will attend the convention

**Social Action Center of Dipolog**
**"Mining Caravan & Lightning Rallies"**
**June 10 / Dipolog City**
Two groups from Siocon and Sibutad will meet in Dipolog for the caravan. A 10-minute lightning rally will be held in every town center. Dipolog Bishop Jose Manguiran and Cong. Roseller Barinaga will lead the final program at Plaza Magsaysay

**Social Action Center of Kidapawan**
**"Radio Discussion on Mining" and "Rally/Torch Parade"**
June 10-11 / Kidapawan, North Cotabato
Radio panel discussion (June 10) over DXCA and rally-torch parade around Kidapawan and peasants' cultural night (3 p.m. up to dawn of June 11) at Kidapawan Pilot Elementary School

**Social Action Center of Surigao**
**"Synchronized Solidarity Mass in 28 Parishes"**
June 10, 6:15am / Diocese of Surigao
Rev. Ricardo Virtudazo officiates the main mass at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral in Surigao City

> "The Philippines is rich in natural resources. It is a waste to not use these resources for the benefit of the Filipinos, but it is a greater waste to misuse and abuse this natural wealth. The question remains: what ecological and social costs accompany the economic bonanza?"
>
> -- **Most Rev. Fernando R. Capalla**
> Archbishop of Davao and CBCP President
> *Letter to Pres. Arroyo*, 31 January 2005

> "Nature is groaning because of man's irresponsibility. The pressure that humans impose is causing her to collapse. In the end, we are the ones who suffer the anguish when nature unleashes its wrath. Genuine development is one that upholds human dignity, and is compatible with ecological integrity and ensures the well-being of future generations."
>
> -- **Most Rev. Dinualdo Gutierrez**
> Bishop of Marbel and Chair of CBCP Episcopal Commission on Social Action-Justice & Peace
> *Nature is Groaning: A Statement of Concern on the Revitalization of Mining in the Philippines*, 10 March 2005

> "We have seen the loss of farmlands because of mine tailings. We have seen the loss of marine life in the fishing grounds around Homonhon and Manicani islands because of the mining in these areas. Now, the Samareños...are uniting to protect our remaining forests and the priceless biodiversity resources in it. We are also uniting to protect it from further destruction by mining operations."
>
> -- **Most Rev. Jose S. Palma**
> Bishop of Calbayog
> *Declaration of Support by the Diocese to the Establishment of the Samar Island Natural Park*

> "We strongly call on our brothers and sisters in Christ...to allow our indigenous brothers and sisters to chart and craft their own development agenda based on culture and tradition... and to seriously consider and plan for alternatives to large-scale mining, which are more lasting and sustainable."
>
> -- **Most Rev. Ramon V. Villena**
> Bishop of Bayombong
> *"Statement of Concern on the Revitalization of Mining in the Philippines"*
> (signed by 13 other Northern Luzon Bishops)

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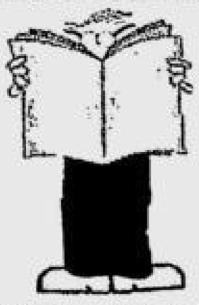

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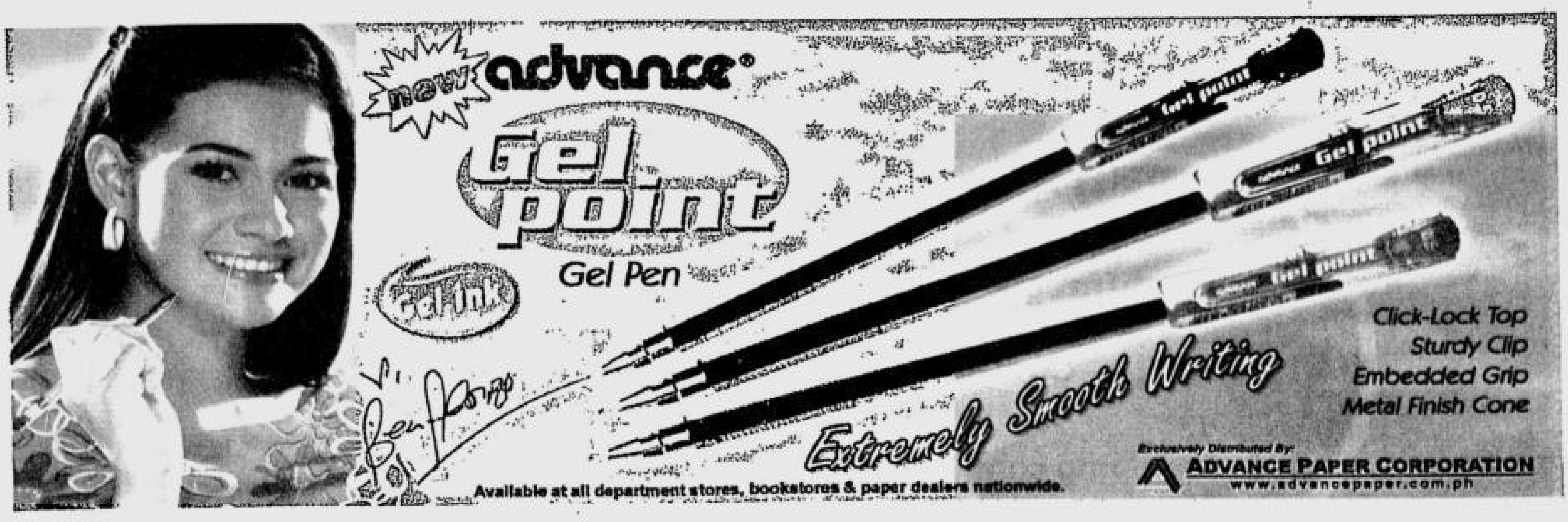
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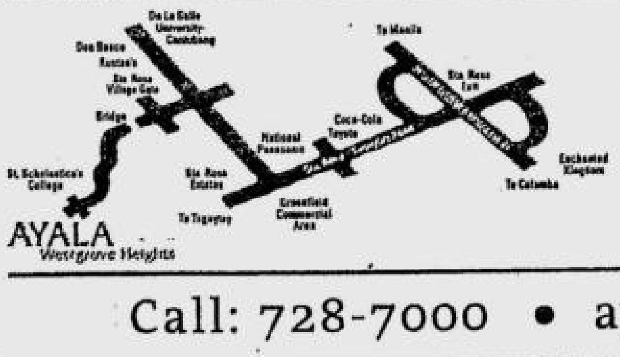
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# 2 Arroyos plan to file libel suit

From page A1

[be] invited as guest speaker" at Camp Crame.

"I also deny that this Ms Cam gave me anything. I don't even remember meeting her," said Mikey Arroyo in impromptu remarks to reporters who were called to the family-owned LTA Building at 3 p.m. yesterday.

### Like mushrooms

"I don't know how these supposed witnesses keep sprouting like mushrooms, they are like guided missiles," added Mikey, a part-time movie actor.

Iggy said he and his nephew were willing to appear in the Senate inquiry if invited.

But he said the House was also planning to start its own investigation.

"Because what is happening here is there are two congressmen who are being implicated ... What right do these people have to malign us? It's time that we are also heard. We should also be able to ask questions. I have a lot of questions for Miss Cam," the Negros congressman said.

"First of all, is Sandra Cam telling the truth? I say she isn't. And we're taking this a step further by suing her, and the court shall take over. And it should determine who is telling the truth," he said.

### Humor

The Arroyo uncle and nephew even managed to inject some humor into their debunking of Cam's testimony, starting with her supposed recollection of what clothes they were wearing in December 2004 when she allegedly delivered the jueteng money to them at the Batasan complex.

Mikey chose to focus on Cam's memory of his fashion sense. Noting that Cam had said that he was wearing a *barong* Tagalog when she allegedly saw him in December, he said he always wore a suit to the sessions "because it's quite cold in the Session Hall."

Mikey even managed to remind everyone about his upcoming movie "Pasaway" when questions were thrown concerning his personal wealth and sources of income.

But when asked if they were willing to open their bank accounts to scrutiny, Iggy said: "Bank accounts are a private matter, but we do issue our statement of assets and liabilities, which is public. But aside from that, I don't think there's any reason."

### Mosqueda

Mosqueda, the retired police officer accused of receiving millions of pesos in jueteng payoffs, of which a substantial part allegedly went to the Arroyo uncle and nephew, also denied the allegations of Cam.

"That is a brazen lie. That is a product of her wild imagination," the former police chief of Bicol told dzBB radio.

Mosqueda told the INQUIRER that Cam's allegations that he had been a "jueteng protector" when he was with the Philippine National Police were "pure lies."

He said he would answer the allegations "point by point" when he is called to testify in the Senate.

Mosqueda acknowledged that he did know Cam. In the dzBB interview, he even described her as a "friend" who would often go to him to ask for favors, and whom he had occasion to help.

He said that help extended to financial assistance.

Mosqueda said Cam could not have known Iggy Arroyo.

"I know for a fact that Congressman (Ignacio Arroyo) does not know her. Nor did I direct her to see the good congressman, Nor did she go there (Congress) to deliver money. That is not true," he said.

He said he had met Iggy Arroyo about three or four times, but only during official functions.

### Reward?

Mosqueda also belied the claim that he got his Bicol posting as a reward for having certified when he was chief of the PNP Crime Laboratory that the Jose Pidal signature in the controversial bank account that was the subject of another sensational Senate investigation last year belonged to Iggy Arroyo, and not to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Mosqueda said he obtained the post after undergoing a thorough examination by the PNP Senior Officers Promotion and Placement Board.

"I never put my organization in a bad light for 34 years ... I only pray that my retirement would be peaceful," he said.

Mikey and Iggy Arroyo have been invited to face the justice department panel investigating the jueteng issue on Monday.

### Close to Mikey

But even before the investigation could start, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez admitted being close to Mikey Arroyo and having consoled him after the jueteng scandal broke out.

"If you have a friend and he is in trouble, then you give him comfort," Gonzalez said, admitting that he visited the President's son in his office in Congress on Wednesday, hours before Cam came out with her allegations.

But Gonzalez, who heads the DOJ's special committee against jueteng, assured the public he would be impartial in his investigation.

He said Cam and Mosqueda would also be invited.

Lawyer Frank Chavez, Cam's counsel, said his client's testimony was "credible," although she was party to an illegal scheme.

"I crossed-examined her. I would not have taken her case if I had any doubt in that area of credibility," he said.

He said Cam, although a confessed bribe-giver, was afforded immunity by the law.

### Libel suit

"If they're threatening to file a libel case against my client, proceed to do that. We're willing to face the charges," said Chavez.

Gonzalez said Cam's decision to come out with her accusations on television had stripped her of immunity from suit.

He said that contrary to claims made by some senators, the immunity granted to their witnesses was not absolute.

"The senators themselves have only relative immunity. It only covers their speeches in Congress when Congress is in session. That is a defense that can be contested," he said. *With reports from Armand Nocum, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila; and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# 'Liar queen' or brave fighter?

From page A1

school classmate. "She's not afraid of being killed," said the classmate, who now works in the Masbate City Hall.

Even under intense grilling by feisty Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Cam maintained her composure, insisting before the televised inquiry that she was there for the sake of the truth.

She did not blink even when threatened by two senators with criminal prosecution for being an accomplice to a high crime allegedly involving the First Family.

### Education

The 45-year-old Cam is a native of the little-known town of Batuan in Masbate.

The ninth child in a brood of 10, she had her elementary education at the Batuan Elementary School, went to the F. Alindogan National High School in Masbate, and earned a journalism degree at a Manila university, according to a report from Camp Simeon A. Ola in Legazpi City.

She put up a recruitment agency in Manila in the 1980s, which the report said was found to have engaged in illegal recruitment. Several estafa cases were reportedly filed against her by victims—mostly relatives and medical workers who said they were promised nonexistent jobs.

Cam returned to Masbate in 1995 and started a political career. She served as liaison officer of Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho.

The following year, she unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Batuan. She made a bid for Congress and lost to Vida Espinosa in 1999.

She again ran for Batuan mayor last year and failed.

The military report did not mention Cam serving on the provincial board, as she claimed in her testimony.

It said Cam was linked to several election-related incidents, including dynamiting houses of political opponents, kidnapping and murder.

In her testimony before the Senate, Cam admitted to being a supporter of Kho, who has been charged with masterminding the killing of Rep. Tito Espinosa. The case is still pending in court.

As a testament to her clout, Kho, now on his third term, had to rely on her to get a security detail for him from Camp Crame.

This is what led Cam in 1998 to Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, then the deputy director of the Police Security Detail Office.

"I went to Camp Crame weekly to renew the mission orders for our security detail," she narrated in her testimony. "I'd go there with *pancit* (noodles) and ice cream as a token of gratitude."

Cam denied she had a romantic affair with Mosqueda. A police source said she had been Mosqueda's girlfriend.

The source said she was also "close" to other police officers. "No," she said when asked about this. She said she expected all sorts of charges to be thrown at her after she decided to come out and testify.

For all her composure during the Senate hearing, she couldn't help but cry in front of reporters as she read a text message from her 14-year-old son, one of three with her American husband from whom she is separated.

The message said: "Keep on fighting, mama. You're on the right track." *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; and Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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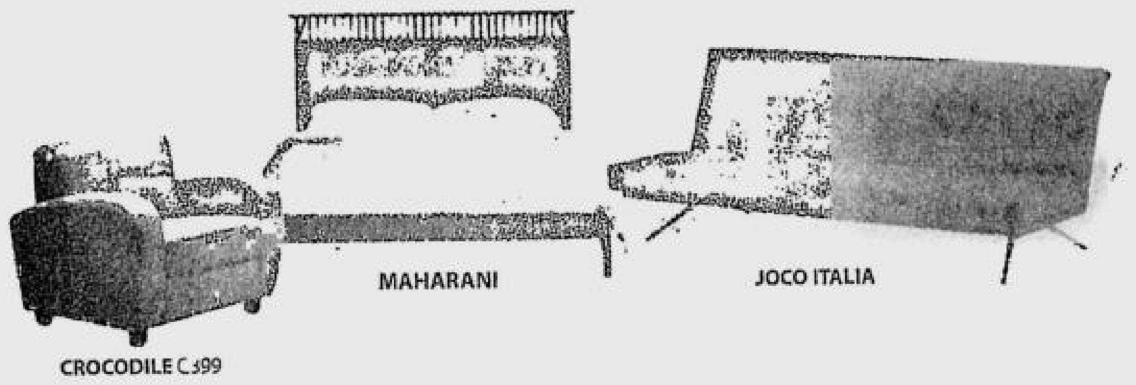

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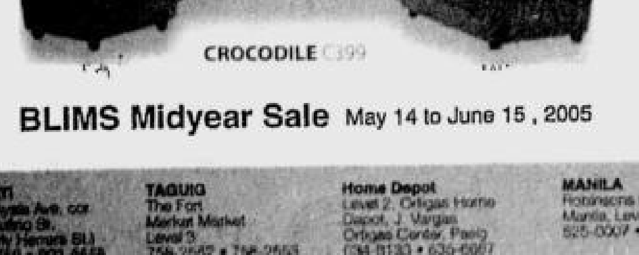

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# Bright Child project to address sad state of RP kids

IF THE PHILIPPINES lacks economic progress and a healthy, enlightened and well-off population, it may be because of the sad state of the Filipino child, according to the State of Filipino Children Report.

The report by the Council for the Welfare of Children said majority of Filipino children's population below age 17 (which totals 32.8 million or 43.4 percent of total population) suffers from malnutrition, cannot have access to educational opportunities and resides in depressed areas where the quality of life is very low.

The CWC, the focal agency of the government for children's concerns, reports that three out of 10 children under 6 years old are underweight; four out of 10 are stunted, and four out of 10 are wasted.

Almost 30 of 1,000 infants die before they reach age 1, and about 300,000 babies are born each year with intellectual impairment due to iodine deficiency. How the Filipino child develops in these early years sets the stage for later success in school and the character of his or her adolescence and adulthood, the report says.

The sadder fact, the report says, is that as far as educational opportunities go, many children do not experience any learning stimulation at home or have access to day care centers. Those who go to school usually drop out after the first three years of schooling and only seven of 10 reach Grade 6.

Four out of ten 13-year-old kids do not move on to high school, and those who finish high school acquire skills that are below international learning standards.

It is for this reason that the CWC, along with four other government agencies—the Departments of Health, Education, Social Welfare and Development and Interior and Local Government—has embarked on the Bright Child Project, the CWC said in a press statement.

Bright Child is the goal and expected outcome of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)— an integrated package of services and programs initiated by the CWC to provide the needed care, support and development inputs to Filipino children under 6. The program extends to all Filipino children below 18 years of age.

"We want every Filipino child to be a Bright Child because the quality of today's young children spells the quality of the human resources that will propel the nation's development tomorrow. If we want a bright future for our country, we would want every Filipino child to be a Bright Child now," CWC director Lina B. Laigo said.

To be a Bright Child, a child needs to get the proper level and quality of care, guidance and stimulation to nurture his or her mental, physical and psychological potentials during the first six years of life, Laigo explained.

Thus the CWC now currently spearheads the implementation of ECCD efforts in the country with the active participation of local government units, accredited NGOs, people's organizations, the DOH, DSWD, DepEd, DILG, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor and Employment, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the National Nutrition Council.

"The Bright Child brand was conceived as a unifying symbol of the holistic programs being implemented by the above mentioned agencies," Laigo said. The Bright Child Program has identified nutritionally depressed areas in Bicol and Western Visayas as those that are in immediate need of Bright Child initiatives.

"It takes a community to support this project and keep it going," Laigo added. She said the program will benefit not just from government and NGO support, but also through the active participation of private citizens and the private sector.

**DISADVANTAGED** Filipino children

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 10, 2005
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 4:7-15
Gospel: Matthew 5:27-32

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Do not commit adultery. But I tell you this: anyone who looks at a woman to satisfy his lust has in fact already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"So, if your right eye causes you to sin, pull it out and throw it away! It is much better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell. If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is better for you to lose a part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

"It was also said: anyone who divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce. But what I tell you is this: If a man divorces his wife except in the case of unlawful union, he causes her to commit adultery. And the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

**Commentary**

*Jesus tells us to look at the root, the source of what we do, whether it is the beginnings of unfaithfulness or lust or greed or harm. He uses exaggerations to get us to see what it is we begin doing: how we use our senses and reactions without thinking, just going along with whatever triggers our behaviors. We are to live aware, conscious of our birthright as God's children and to both resist easy evil as well as work at the practices of goodness. And the law is for everyone: man and woman as equals. All human beings are more than capable of evil and of change-and goodness. We are to be diligent in self-examination so that our righteousness extends far beyond anything that is superficial or shallow. Do we examine our lives, our reactions to others and our behaviors with the eye of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount? How would Jesus describe our daily lives?*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)/REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Compromise agreements—Under Article 1306 of the Civil Code, contracting parties may establish such stipulations, clauses, terms and conditions as they may deem convenient, provided they are not contrary to law, morals, good customs, public order, or public policy. Thus, a compromise agreement whereby the parties make reciprocal concessions to resolve their differences to thereby put an end to litigation is binding on the contracting parties and is expressly acknowledged as a juridical agreement between them. To have the force of res judicata, however, the compromise agreement must be approved by final order of the court. To be valid, the compromise agreement must be based on real claims and actually agreed upon in good faith. Both conditions are present in the case at bar. In clear, categorical language, each of the parties have manifested their desire, by forging the Compromise Agreement, to abbreviate the legal battle and settle the case amicably to both their satisfaction. As the Agreement is not contrary to law, public order, public policy, morals or good customs, the same is hereby approved. The petition having become moot and academic, it should thus now be dismissed. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Carpio Morales, Special Third Division, Resolution, National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia v. Court Of Appeals, G.R. No. 124267, January 17, 2005) **BY R.B. VERA**

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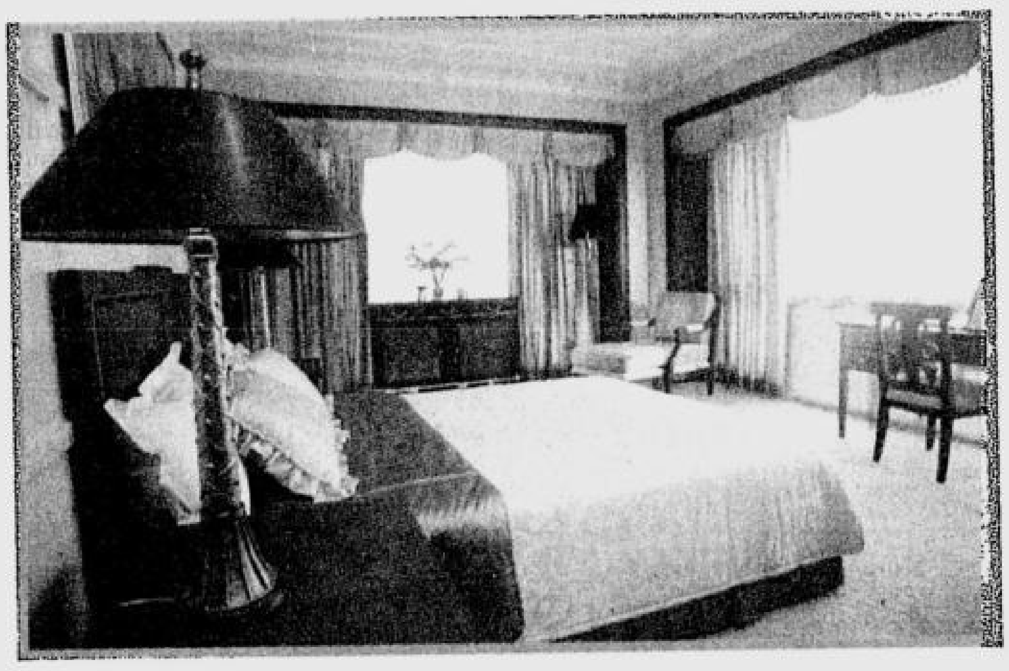

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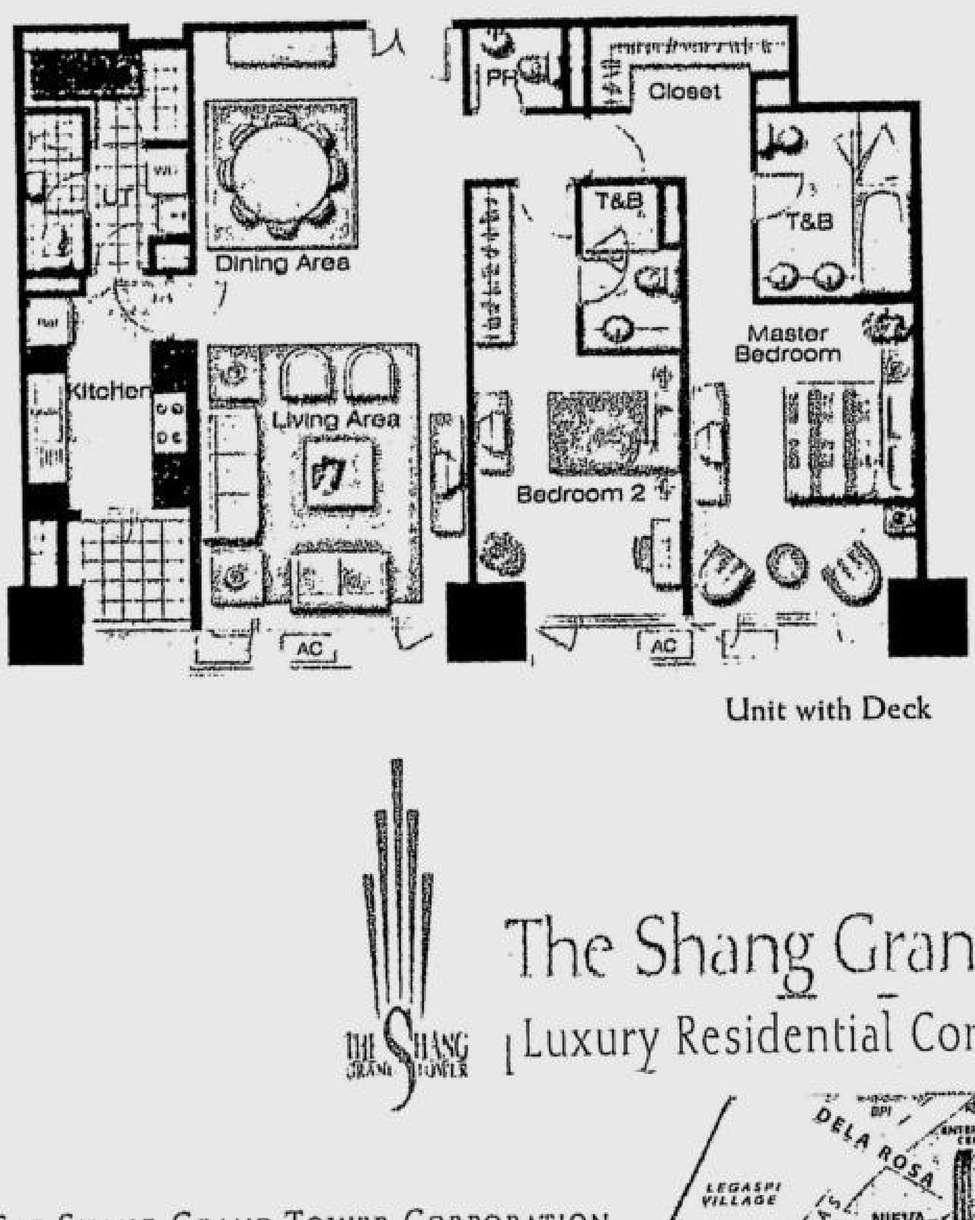

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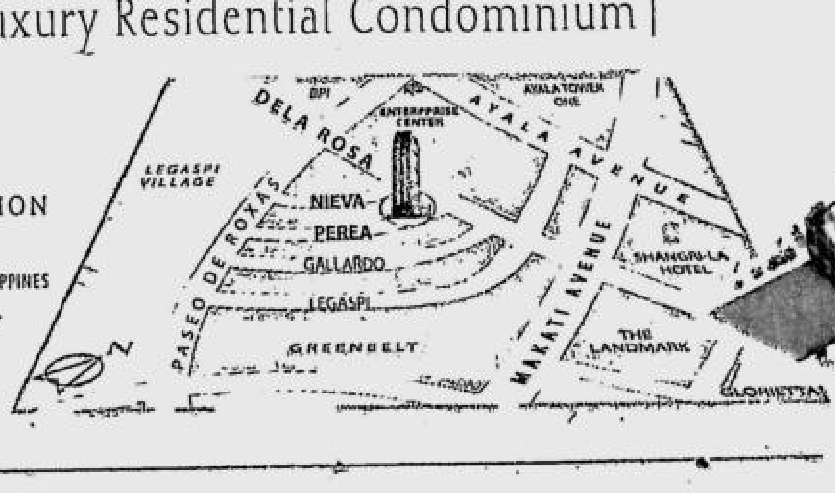

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Blair: Deal to get Africa out of poverty near

**LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair says the Group of Eight nations are close to a deal to lift Africa out of poverty, but aid agencies worried on Wednesday that any agreement might fall short of what is needed.**

Britain has said its presidency of the G8 this year should be judged on what is done to help the impoverished continent where millions die each year from disease and hunger, and has demanded that poor countries' debt be cancelled and aid doubled.

"What we're trying to do is put together a comprehensive plan that deals with aid, debt, trade, peace-keeping and peace enforcement and conflict resolution, the main killer diseases, but also governance and action against corruption," Blair told parliament on Wednesday.

But as G8 finance ministers prepared to meet in London this week to lay the groundwork for a summit in July in Gleneagles, Scotland, campaigners expressed concern that Britain's ambitious targets may not be met.

"This will be a make-up operation where they say everything is fine and next year we'll have millions more dead because of the ineptitude of rich governments," said Francesco Oddone, economist at Eurodad, a network of 48 development organizations.

In Washington, Blair and President George W. Bush said on Tuesday they were close to agreement on a plan that would cancel up to 100 percent of poor African countries' multilateral debt.

But the two leaders failed to agree on boosting aid.

Bush conceded that writing off debts to international organizations should be done with new money but details were sketchy on how this would be funded and which countries would benefit.

Britain has said that without 100 percent multilateral debt relief, the poorest countries would pay between now and 2015 up to 15 billion pounds ($27.56 billion) principal and interest payments to international organizations.

Bush and Blair both said that assistance should be given only to those countries ready to tackle corruption and Blair's spokesperson said on Wednesday the debt cancellation could benefit around 25 of the poorest countries.

"It's a step forward because it looks as if the US is ready to put in more money but it's a narrower list of countries that will be helped," said Romilly Greenhill, policy officer at charity ActionAid. "We think about 62 countries need help."

BLAIR and Bush at a news conference at the White House, June 7 after their talks. AP

Africans welcomed the moves while urging the West to examine its own role in creating the problem in the first place.

The prospect of total debt forgiveness for Africa's poorest nations answers a decades-old call by African leaders who argue the debts—some of which were of dubious origin—divert limited funds away from education, health and infrastructure.

"It is evidence that the G8 leaders are willing to put their political prestige behind debt relief for Africa. That is very encouraging," said Udoma Udo Udoma, a Nigerian senator who led a group of lawmakers to lobby creditors for relief last month.

"The link to democracy, good governance and anticorruption is also a challenge to those of us who want debt relief to put our houses in order."

Sub-Saharan Africa has a total of $230 billion in external debt and pays $12 billion a year on servicing. Much of the debt is owed to multilateral organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but there is also bilateral debt owed to members of Paris Club and London Club.

Blair said the rest of the G8—France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and Russia—now had to be persuaded to clinch a deal. But Paris, Tokyo and Berlin have their own debt relief proposal which would help only five countries.

Senior US Treasury official Randal Quarles said in Washington on Wednesday he did not know whether a deal could be reached at the weekend. A Canadian official in Ottawa also said the G8 may not reach a final agreement by Saturday.

The finance ministers this week will have to thrash out how to pay for any debt relief deal—a likely sticking point when budgets are already stretched tight.

British finance minister Gordon Brown has proposed selling International Monetary Fund gold reserves to write off poor countries' debts but this has found little support.

Washington also had no truck with Brown's other big idea—an International Finance Facility (IFF)—which could raise an extra $50 billion in aid money up front by issuing bonds using future development budgets as collateral.

But Britain is determined to launch at least a pilot IFF to fund vaccinations, even without US support.

Aid agencies said they hoped that getting debt relief out of the way at this weekend's meeting might keep the door open for negotiations on increasing aid at Gleneagles. *Reuters*

## Bolivia Congress meets as threat of civil war hangs

SUCRE, Bolivia—Forced by demonstrators to leave La Paz and meet in Sucre to discuss President Carlos Mesa's resignation, Bolivia's Congress Thursday could face the same music, as protesters vowed to take their fight all the way to the country's political capital.

Evo Morales, a leftist leader of coca farmers and one of the most influential protest leaders, called on Quechua Indians in the Sucre area, 740 km southeast of La Paz, to prevent the meeting, set for 10:30 a.m.

Protesters will tighten their blockade of roads leading to Sucre, Morales said Wednesday, adding that militant area miners were heading toward the city. Some 2,000 Quechua Indians were also heading to Sucre from the city of Cochabamba, a top Morales lieutenant said.

Mesa, who resigned Monday, warned in a speech Tuesday that Bolivia was so polarized it was heading toward civil war.

"Let us avoid lost lives, let us avoid a violence that devours us all," he said, calling for early elections. He also warned that Bolivia was "on the brink of civil war."

Felipe Quispe, an Aymara Indian protest leader, seemed to relish the idea. "That is much better, because that way we can define (the future of) this country with weapons," he said in an interview with a Peruvian radio stations.

"There is a racial battle between whites and Indians," he said. "It was high time for us (Indians) to take power, that the invaders return our territory," he added.

Demonstrators are demanding new presidential elections, the nationalization of the oil and gas industry and constitutional reform to establish regional autonomy.

Mesa called on Senate leader Hormando Vaca Diez—first in line to succeed him—and House of Deputies leader Mario Cossio to resign in order to facilitate early presidential elections.

If both step aside that would allow Supreme Court chief justice Eduardo Rodriguez to become interim leader and call for early elections. *AFP*

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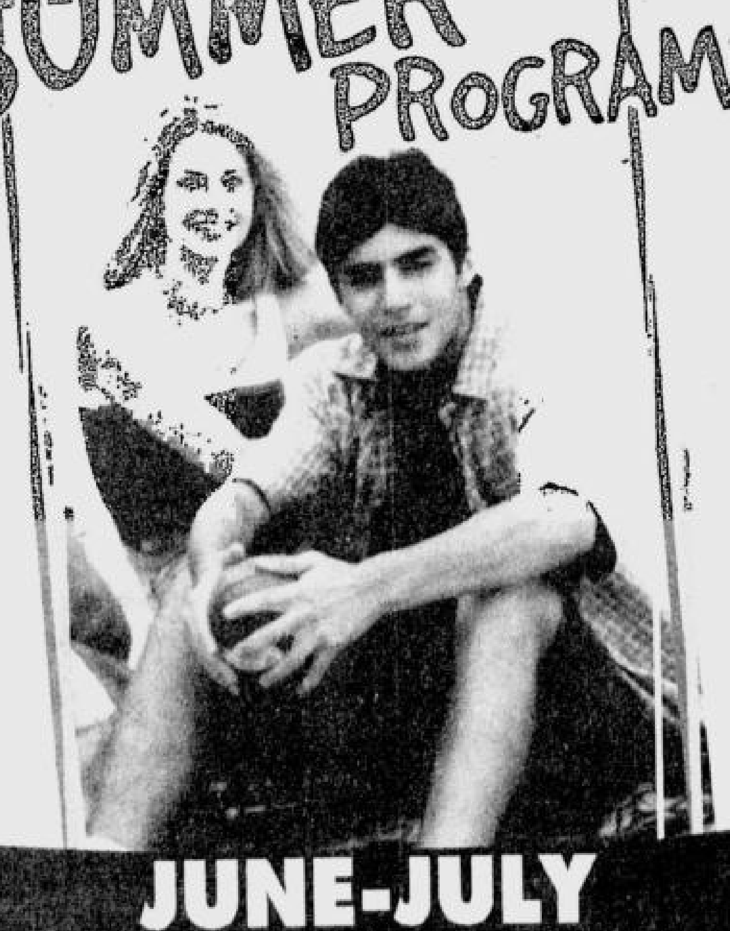
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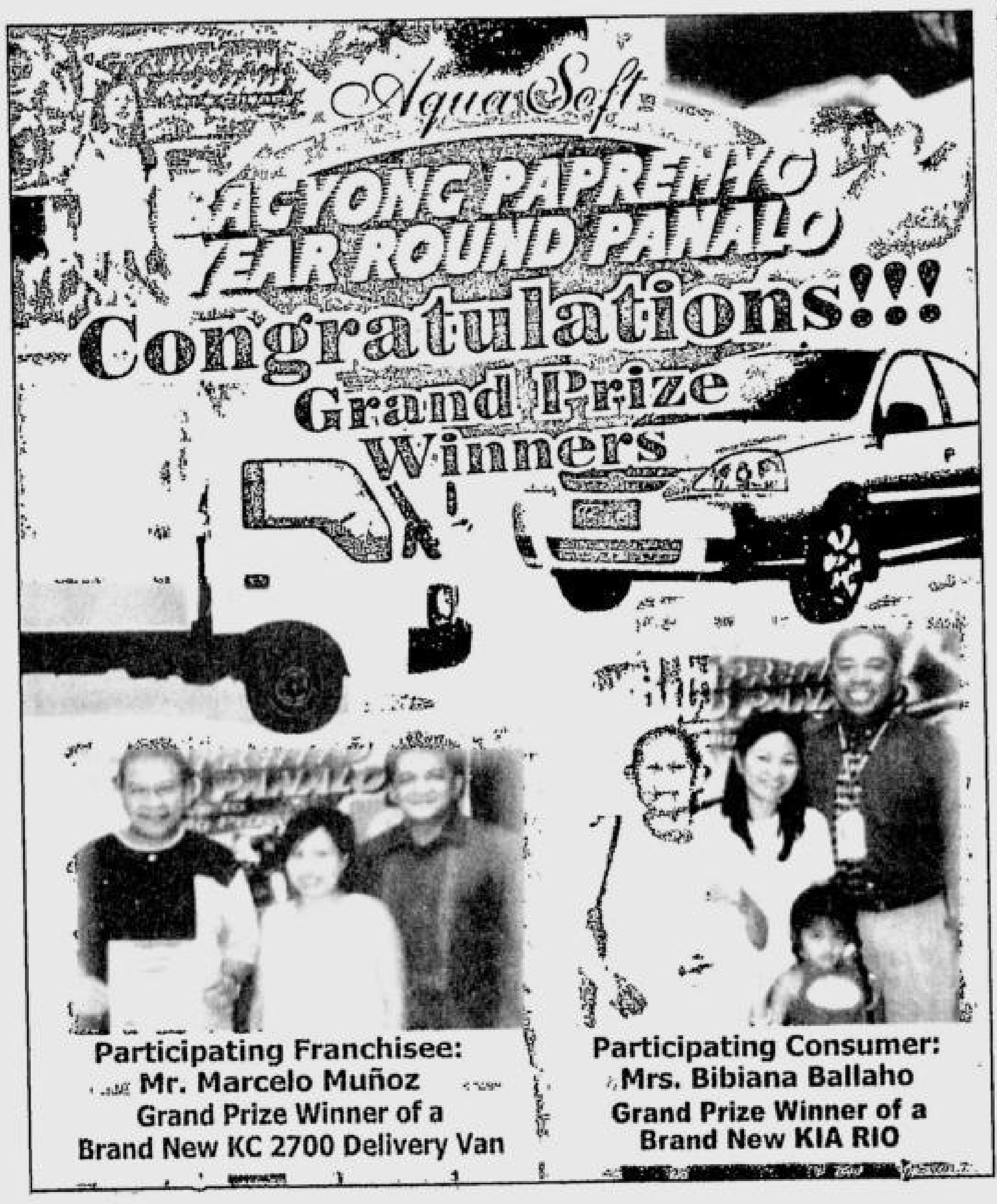
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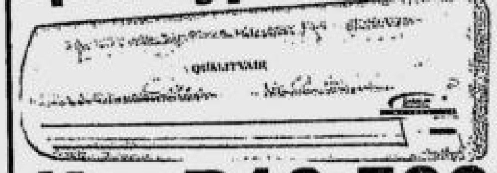

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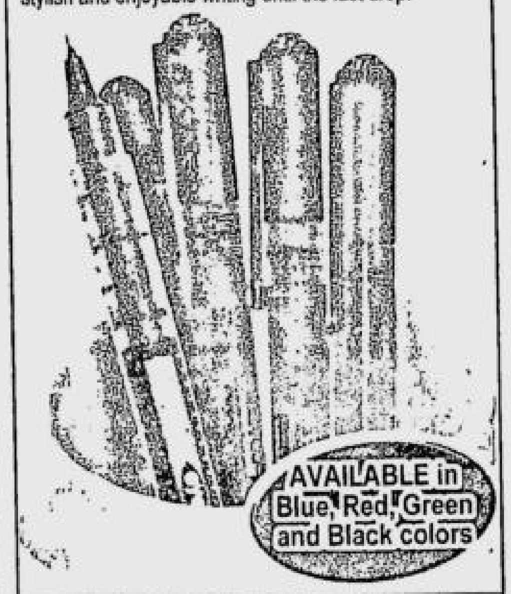

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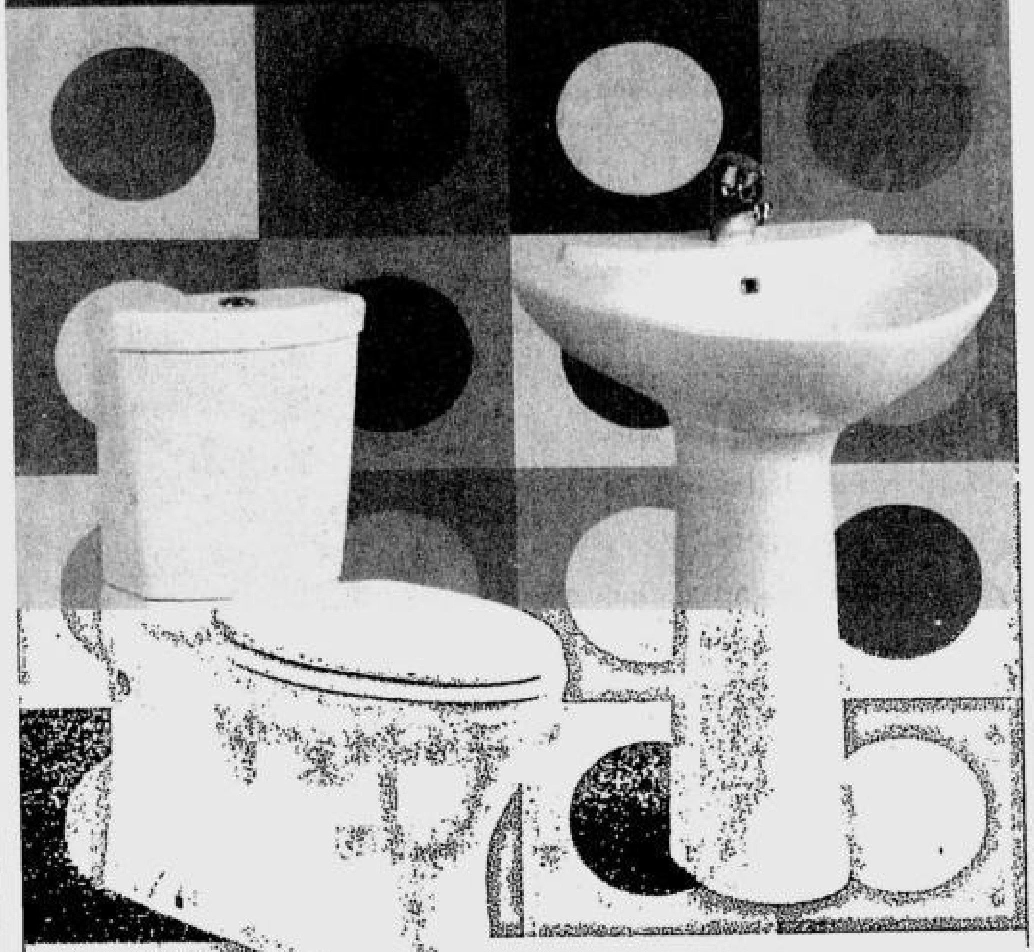

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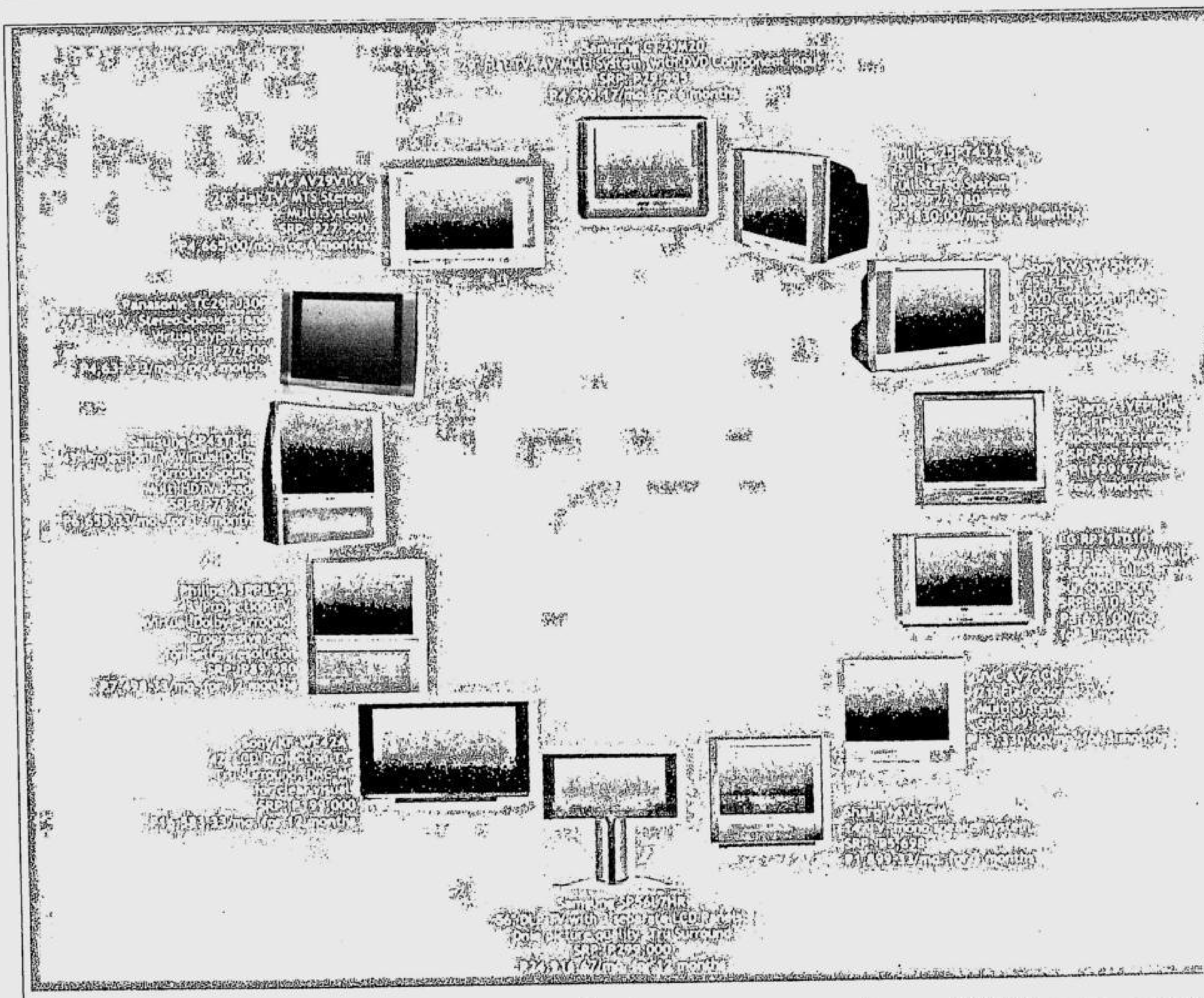

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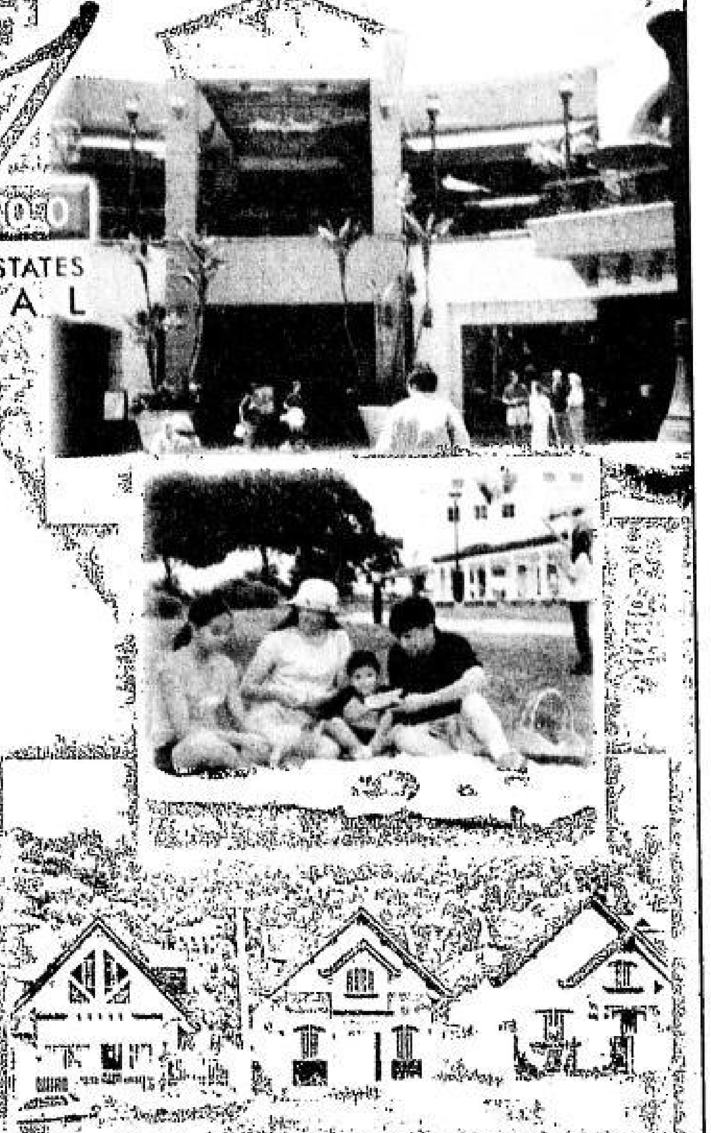

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# Stem-cell therapy helps stroke victims, say S. Korea experts

SEOUL—South Korean researchers said Thursday they had successfully used stem-cell therapy to treat brain-damaged stroke victims and others who had suffered similar organ damage.

The stem-cell treatment had a "remedial effect" on 64 of the 74 patients suffering from cerebral infraction and other conditions caused by blood circulatory disorders, the health ministry, which funded the team, said in a statement.

It was the first successful stem-cell therapy in South Korea involving a group of patients rather than an individual, the statement said.

"This clinical success for patients in a larger group clears away doubt about stem-cell therapy, and also paves the way for the early and common use of stem-cell therapy," it read.

The clinical research team made up of six medical doctors from the country's Catholic and Chonbuk universities reported no side effects such as immunity rejection during the therapy.

The team said it had extracted stem cells from the bone marrow of the patients, whose condition was caused by clogged blood vessels leading to brain or other organ damage, and injected the damaged organs with the stem cells.

"The function of those (impaired human) organs was found to improve significantly after they were injected by the stem cells," it said.

It said that three of five cerebral-infraction patients who were treated "improved significantly in terms of linguistic impediment and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)," while the other two improved "slightly" after the therapy.

"It is the first case... that the direct injection of stem cells into damaged brain parts has put a remedial effect on the patients," Na Hyung-Kyun, a neurologist who joined the team, told Yonhap news agency.

"Some patients were unable to communicate before the (stem-cell) therapy, but they have now gotten better enough to communicate with their spouses."

The health ministry said it had granted four billion won ($3.9 million) to the clinical team as part of its financial support for stem-cell research.

The research findings come on the heals of other reports of successful applications of stem-cell therapy.

In November last year, a private South Korean research team announced success in treating a 37-year-old woman paralyzed for 20 years with stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood.

Stem cells derived from cord blood or bone marrow can develop into replacement cells for damaged organs or body parts.

But research on embryonic stem cells has triggered ethical problems as critics say it is unethical and dangerous to produce embryos —regarded as living humans by some people —for scientific use.

South Korean cloning pioneer Hwang Woo-Suk at Seoul National University announced in February 2004 that his team cloned human embryos, from which they harvested embryonic stem cells, for the first time in the world.

The idea behind stem cells is to coax them into growing into fresh tissue that can then be transplanted into the body to replace or replenish damaged cells.

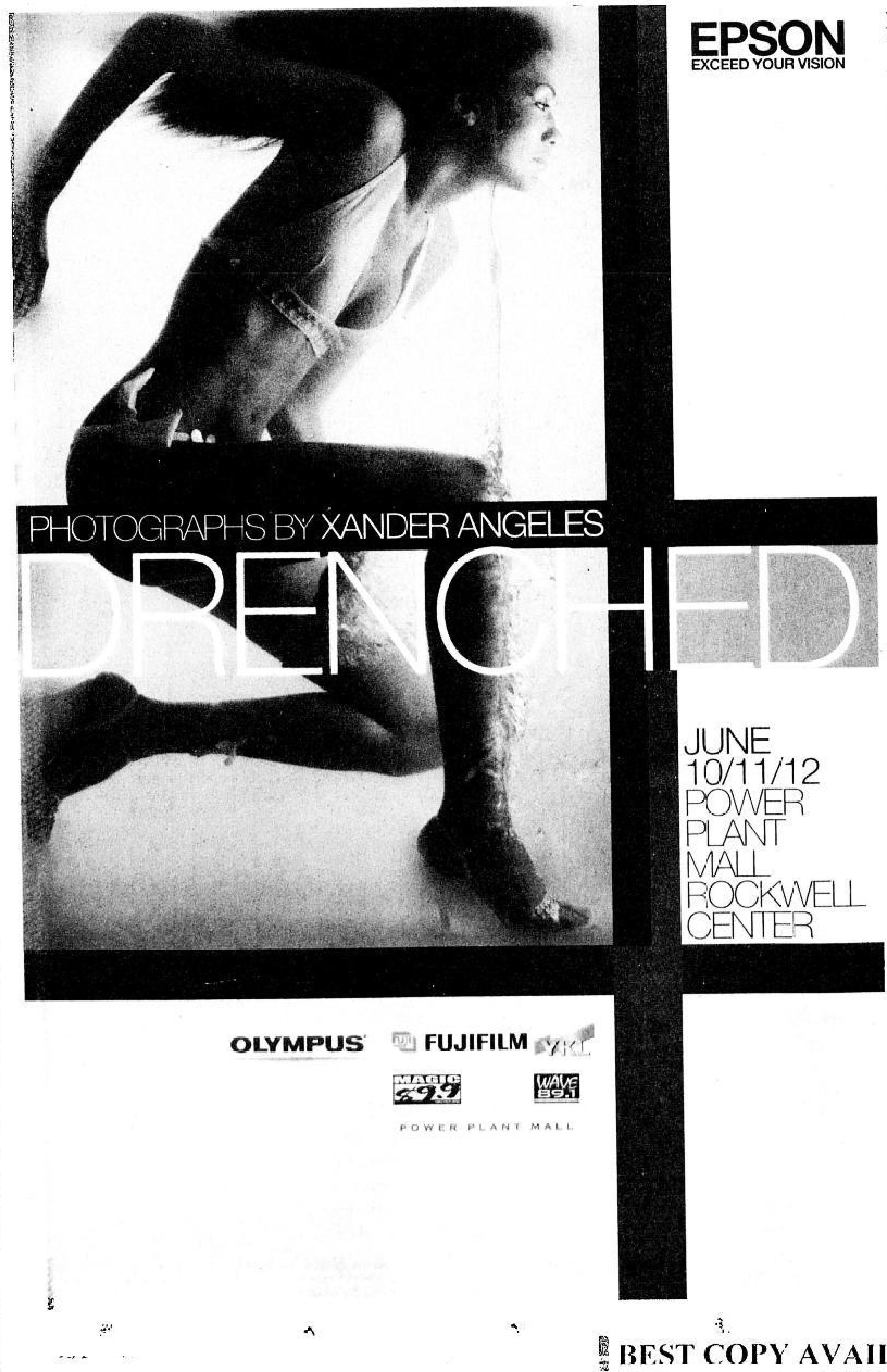
But a big hurdle is to ensure that these replacement tissues are not rejected as hostile by the body's immune system.

Thus the interest in cloned stem cells.

As they are duplicates of the body's own DNA, they should, in theory, not encounter any rejection problem.

In a follow-up research, Hwang's team announced in May that they had developed the first lines of patient-specific embryonic stem cells, designed to give a precise DNA match for their patients. *AFP*

Unide
North



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ROY INTERVIEW

# India 'boom' causing environmental disaster

**By Simon Denyer**

**PRIZE-WINNING** author and activist Arundhati Roy REUTERS

NEW DELHI—India's economic boom is causing unsustainable environmental damage and is blinding people to the misery of hundreds of millions of poor, prize-winning author and activist Arundhati Roy said.

"Even if you know what is going on, you can't help thinking India is this cool place now, Bollywood is 'in' and all of us have mobile phones," Roy said in an interview.

"But it is almost as if the light is shining so brightly that you do not notice the darkness," she said. "There is no understanding whatsoever of what price is being paid by the rivers and mountains and irrigation and ground water, there is no questioning of that because we are on a roll."

"India shining" was the campaign motto of the Bharatiya Janata Party which lost last year's election, unable to capitalize on the fast-growing economy and failing to convince the rural poor that economic reforms were benefiting them.

Roy won the 1997 Booker prize for her first novel "The God of Small Things." Since then, she has become a leading environmental activist and opponent of big dams, which have displaced millions.

## Major crisis

She said India's environment faced a major crisis, caused by industrial pollution, by big dams, and in particular by unsustainable use of ground water to irrigate thirsty cash crops such as soya beans, peanuts and sugarcane.

"When the only logic is the market, when there is no respect for ecosystems, for the amount of water available... then we are in for a lot of trouble," she said. "You have to have a system where people have access to some amount of water to grow whatever is sustainable for them to survive."

Falling water tables in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have forced millions of farmers to the brink of ruin. Buried under unpayable loans, thousands have committed suicide.

Roy said the poor were being sold a dream of consumerism which was impossible to deliver economically or environmentally.

"The idea of turning one billion people into consumers is terrifying," she said.

"Are you going to starve to death dreaming of a mobile phone or are you going to have control of the resources that are available to you and have been for generations, but have been taken away so that someone else can have a mobile phone?"

Since the BJP was replaced by a coalition led by the center-left Congress party, Roy said she felt less targeted for speaking out, and some of the "vulgar and vicious" facets of BJP-rule had gone.

## Nothing changed

"But in terms of what is happening on the ground economically, I don't think anything has changed at all."

Choosing between parties was increasingly like choosing between brands of washing powder made by the same manufacturer, she said.

"It was so clear that the mandate for the Indian elections given by millions of people who came out to vote... was one against the so-called neo-con liberal reforms," she said.

"But the minute that mandate was given to Congress, it is almost like the cameras shifted from the electoral field in India to outside the stock market, where stocks were plummeting, including the media's own stocks. And people were forced to come out and say they were not against privatization."

Recent court decisions in favor of dams and slum clearances had tipped the playing field further against the poor. "It is so easy for people who are on this side of the line to climb the ladder. The middle class has expanded and is having a good time, but for people who are on the other side it is becoming impossible to survive," Roy said. "There are no jobs, there is just nowhere to go, no way out of it at all." *Reuters*

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# Burma Army continues to target civilians—HRW

ntified ethnic Karen women are shown at an undisclosed jungle camp in ern Karen State of Burma Jan. 19. AP/FREE BURMA RANGERS

BANGKOK—Burma's Army continues to target civilians while fighting ethnic Karen rebels, with extrajudicial killings and forcible displacements of some people up to 100 times in their lives, Human Rights Watch said Thursday.

Sexual violence, forced labor and looting of villages are common practice for an "unreformed and unaccountable" Burma Army, US-based Human Rights Watch said in a new report.

Rangoon also keeps conscripting villages, including children, despite repeated denials, the report said.

"The government still allows the Burmese Army to kill and drive people out of their villages with complete impunity," Human Rights Watch Asia director Brad Adams said in a statement, using the military-ruled country's former name.

"While the world has rightly condemned the treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi and the lack of democracy, it needs also to focus on the Burmese Army's brutal displacement of the Karen and other ethnic minorities."

The human rights group interviewed 46 ethnic Karen for their 70-page report. The 46 Karen together said they were displaced more than 1,000 times in their lives, five of them more than 100 times each.

"Serious economic motivations" were behind forced displacement, Adams told a press conference Thursday.

"In many parts of eastern Burma which are resource-rich, it's very clear that there is no military objective in targeting civilians and targeting villagers, but there is an economic objective," he said.

Policymakers assume the best practice for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is to let them return home, while international standards say the choice about returning should be up to the individual involved, Adams said.

"But it's an empty choice for many Burmese IDPs because there is no home to go to because their houses have been destroyed, their villages have been occupied and their land taken away permanently," he said.

Ethnic Karen leaders say some 200,000 Karen have been displaced by decades of fighting.

The ruling junta and the Karen rebels called a halt to five decades of fighting with an informal pact in December 2003, but have never signed a formal ceasefire deal.

The Karen National Union is the largest of a handful of rebel groups still resisting Rangoon's rule. The junta estimates there are 7,000 rebels in the group which is fighting one of the world's longest insurgencies.

When people are forcibly relocated, it's often to military-government run "relocation sites" near military bases across the country, including 100 in Karen areas whose total population was at least 125,000 people, the report said.

"People living in relocation centers are liable to various—official and unofficial—taxes, and are also often subject to extensive bouts of forced labor on state-sponsored projects, such as roads," it said.

"Such depredations leave families with little time and human resources to devote to their own survival.

"In some cases, the amount of labor demanded is so great as to occupy entire families full-time." *AFP*

# N. Korea boasts it has nuclear arms stockpile

TOKYO—Japan on Thursday said North Korea posed "a challenge to world peace" and urged it to return to negotiations after Pyongyang said it had nuclear bombs and was building more.

North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan told the US network ABC in an interview that Pyongyang has "enough nuclear bombs to defend against a US attack."

Reacting to the interview, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said: "I think it is a challenge to world peace."

"The world is cooperating over nuclear non-proliferation. There is no change to Japan's stance that it must be dealt with appropriately at a six-party forum," Hosoda, the government spokesperson, told reporters.

"Japan shares that position with the United States. We are sure China, Russia and South Korea also share the same position," Hosoda said, referring to the other nations in the talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program.

Kim, North Korea's chief negotiator in the six-nation talks which Pyongyang has boycotted for a year, would neither confirm nor deny that the communist state had a missile capable of hitting the mainland United States. *AFP*

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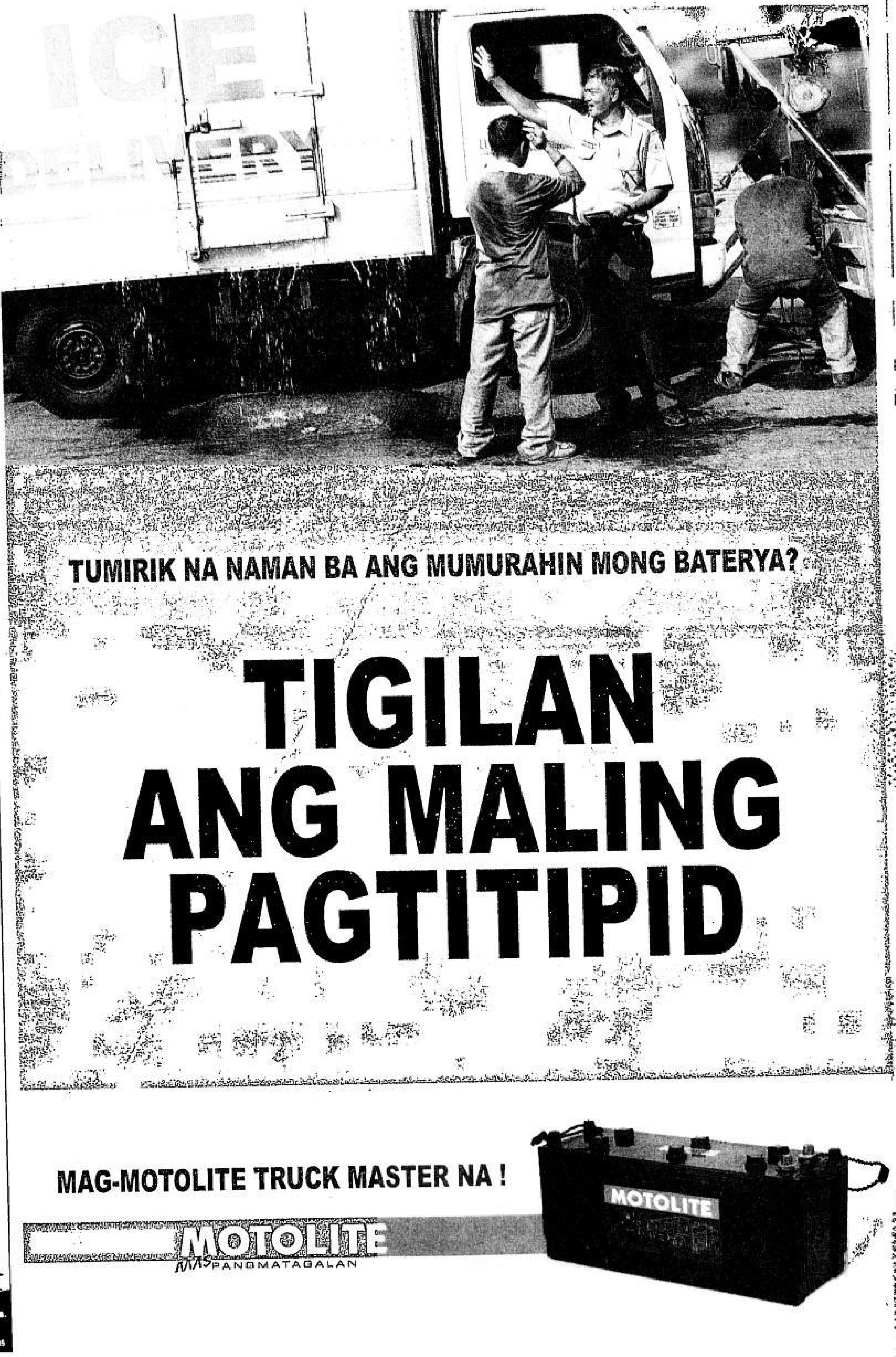

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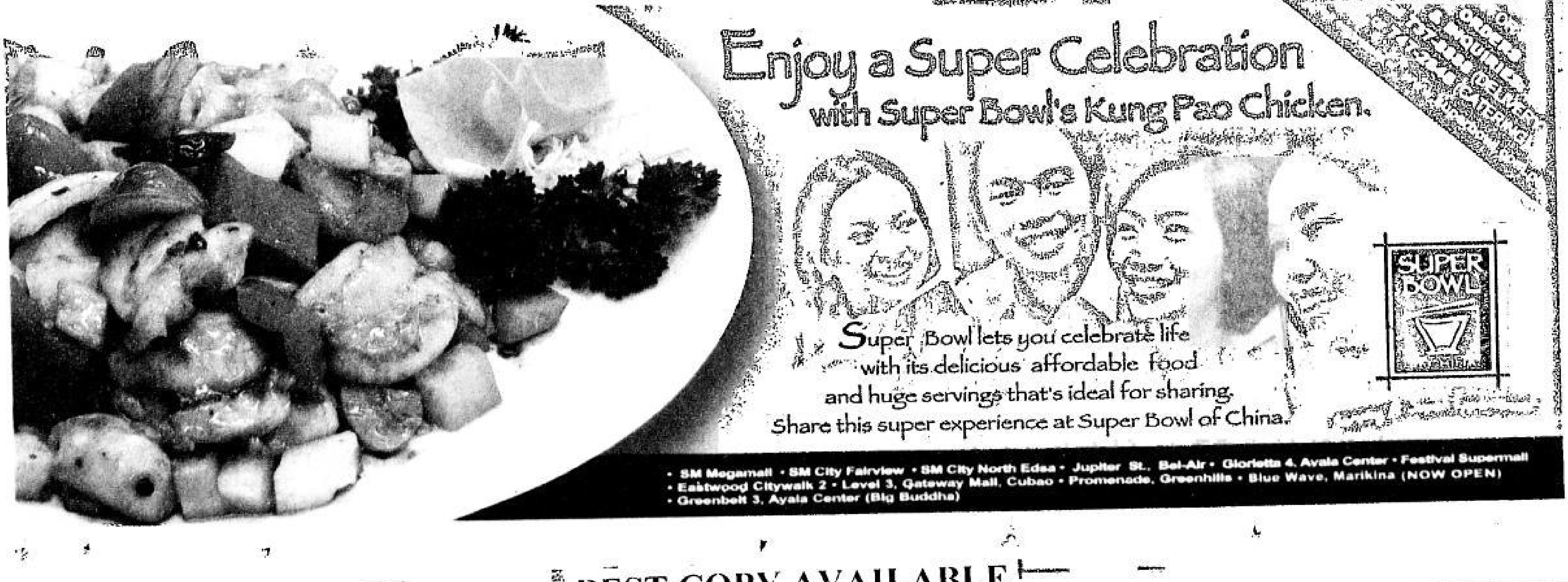

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# OPINION

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## Help with dignity

**EDITORIAL**

AT A TIME when the country is aghast over the millions and millions of pesos from *jueteng* exchanging hands every day, the effort to provide students P25 a day to keep body and soul together comes as a breath of fresh air. There is no greater testimony to the colossal nature of the evils of illegal gambling and official corruption than the sobering fact that students of a school that is known to cater to the elite like Ateneo de Davao are literally starving.

An American and a Filipino Jesuit, Fathers Bob Hogan and Rodolfo Malasmas, have taken it upon themselves to address this pressing need among scholars of the Ateneo. Even if students receive funds for scholarships, they still lack the financial wherewithal to feed themselves. The stories are enough to melt even the stoniest of hearts: a scholar who went on to garner the highest academic award on the verge of going blind due to malnutrition; other students whispering thanks to God because they have a chance to have one meal; many others making do with only one meal, despite all the needs a growing body and and busily studying mind require.

And we must call attention to the relatively tiny sums involved, that have made such a tremendous difference. Imagine P25 a day, the amount prisoners receive in meal allowances, having to be secured through school subsidies and the donations of people who attend Mass. Father Hogan hopes that before he goes (he is 72 years old), he can leave a concrete legacy behind, by raising P1 million to permanently fund his feeding program, called Daily Bread. Imagine the kind of ambition that aims to raise the meal allowance to P30, and compare it to the kind of ambition and greed that jueteng lords, corrupt politicians and police officers are capable of, as witnesses have shown in the Senate hearings.

Winston Churchill once said something to the effect that there is no finer way to spend public funds than to put milk into babies. Nutrition is the bedrock of a hopeful life, a useful life. Without nutrition, all the reforms or government policies in the world would be futile. If the youth are our hope, and their best hope, in turn, lies in a good education, then a good education is only possible if the youth are well fed.

The Daily Bread program of these two Jesuits demonstrates the importance of personal involvement in local concerns. The two didn't wait for government to act; they acted to solve a clear and pressing problem. They did so with great efficiency, and just as importantly, with great tact. The students who go to the priests for their meal subsidies receive counseling, and are encouraged to realize that they form a community. They are not treated with pity, but with dignity. Even cafeteria concessionaires have found a way to discreetly accept the meal tickets given to students, so that they aren't embarrassed.

The modest sums that Daily Bread works with and the tremendous benefits they produce indicate an idea deserving the fullest support of the public. It also presents a model for a manageable, beneficial program that can, and should, be implemented all over the country.

Time and again, in the face of grinding poverty and increasing hopelessness in our country, our readers ask: What can we do? Everyone wants to help, but the difficulties are so great they seem insurmountable. The Daily Bread program shows how something can be done, now, and how poverty can be turned into something else: a means for self-validation, a way to promote dignity, a chance to instill hope.

## Travesty of justice

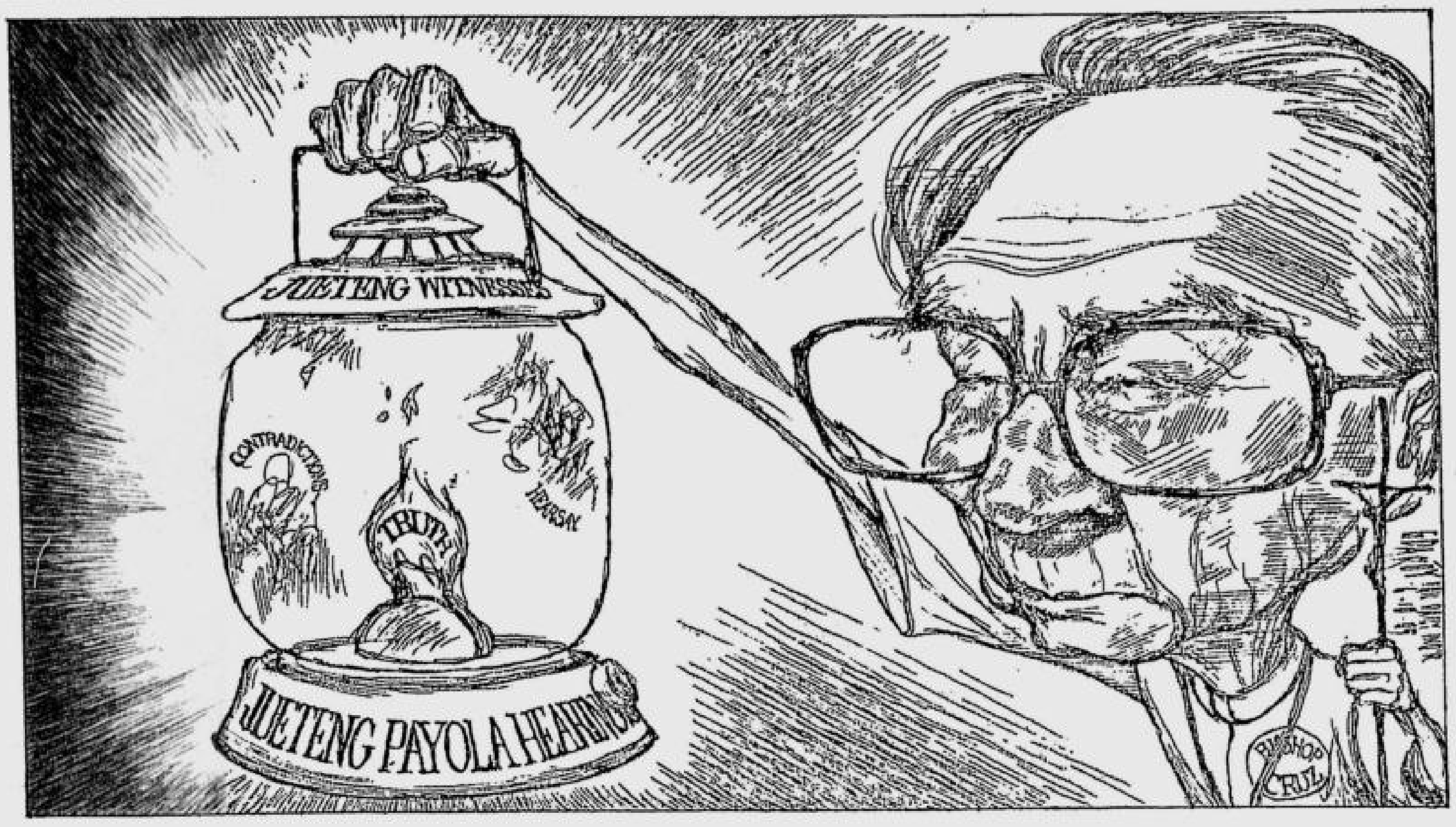
**FOREIGN COMMENT**

NO one expected that Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former head of Yukos and once Russia's richest man, would escape a guilty verdict in his trial for fraud and tax evasion. But the harshness of the nine-year sentence, imposed on him by a Moscow judge who spent 12 days reading out the evidence, confirms the worst fears about this show trial.

The sentence, only a year less than the maximum demanded by the prosecution, was clearly influenced, if not dictated, by the Kremlin. The trial, the most important test of post-Soviet judicial impartiality, was a travesty of justice.

The outcome is as disastrous for Russian reform as it is for investor confidence.

*The Times (London)*



## Mystery of tapes revealed at Kapihan show

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

HOW will the tale of the tapes end? Will the President be impeached? Will there be another people power? Or a coup?

Who tapped the telephone of the President? And who gave the copies of the two tapes to Secretary Ignacio Bunye? And the longer tapes to lawyer Allan Paguia?

Which of them are genuine? And why is Malacañang sacrificing Bunye, putting the entire blame on him for releasing the two tapes?

Do you want to know the answers to these questions? Do you want to know the inside story on the mystery of the tapes?

Go to the Kapihan sa Manila on the evening of June 27 at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion. The mystery of the tapes and the conversations they contain will be revealed in a special show to mark the 20th anniversary of the Kapihan.

I do not guarantee that what would be revealed there is the absolute truth. What I can guarantee is that you will be entertained and have fun. The tale of the tapes will be only one of the satirical skits that the celebrated mimic Willie Nepomuceno and his friends will present to poke fun at the high and the mighty. In between the skits, the Philippines' top singers, among them Pilita Corrales, Nonoy Zuñiga, Jaya, Marri Nallos and Juan Rodrigo, will serenade you with their songs while you're having dinner.

You can buy tickets for the show at the Manila Hotel, the Front Page and Samahang Plaridel on T.M. Kalaw Street (across the street from the National Library) in Manila.

* * *

**Kapihan sa Manila, the original breakfast forum, the mother of all *kapihans*, is 20 years old this year, one year older than people power, hence the special anniversary show on June 27. You will regret it, miss all the fun, and lose half of your life, if you miss it.**

**Kapihan sa Manila was born in 1985 because of the desire of Filipino journalists for press freedom. Staffers of the three newspapers during martial law (Daily Express, Manila Bulletin and Times-Journal) were mistakenly derided because their owners were cronies of President Marcos and what came out in the papers were always favorable to the Marcos regime; the opposition voices were shut out.**

**But these staffers were professional journalists, and it was precisely to give the opposition an outlet for their voices that Kapihan sa Manila was born. Since their papers were tightly controlled by the friends of Marcos, the top editors of the three newspapers met and decided to set up a breakfast forum wherein representatives of all sides of any issue, especially the opposition, would face one another around a breakfast table and debate the issues. The purpose was to give the journalists a balanced view of the problem in one sitting, instead of hearing one side at one session and the other side at the next session. The Manila Hotel was chosen as the venue as it was closest to the editorial offices of the three newspapers. And since it was a public forum it became a legitimate subject to report in the newspapers. The editors had a good excuse to print the opinion of opposition representatives. The Kapihan was widely covered by media.**

**Kapihan sa Manila became an instant success. The public lapped it up and, surprisingly, the Marcos government and the newspaper owners tolerated it. Members of the opposition loved it. They fought to be invited to the forum and cross swords with officials of the administration.**

**Imitation *kapihans* sprouted all over the Philippines, even in Filipino communities in New York and San Francisco. Television talk shows patterned their format to that of the Kapihan in which spokesmen of all sides of an issue argued their cases face to face.**

**Several years later, I introduced an innovation to mark the anniversary of the Kapihan. That is the special anniversary dinner-show in which Willie Nepomuceno and his friends satirize public officials and issues. Willie Nep, dubbed "the man with a thousand faces" because he can mimic the faces and voices of prominent personalities, play almost all the celebrities who are in the spotlight. Name the prominent personality, Willie has mimicked him.**

**During election years, we had mock polls during the show. Results of the elections curiously predicted the results that came out in the real elections later.**

**One morning during the Cory administration when Gringo Honasan was being hunted but could not be found, I had Willie, dressed as Gringo, as a surprise guest at a Kapihan forum. He arrived with an escort of uniformed "soldiers" while some officials of the Cory government were arguing a case around a table. Willie looked so much like Gringo that the Cory officials were surprised and immediately stood up from the table.**

**"*Baka magkabarilan dito*," one said, "*alis na tayo.*" And they did just that.**

**Of course, when the audience finally got wise and realized it was Willie from the funny scripted dialogue, everybody had a good laugh.**

**Another time, during an anniversary show, President Fidel V. Ramos was one of the characters Willie portrayed. His imitation was so accurate, down to the scar on the latter's left upper lip, that the two of them looked like twins when the President went up the stage. With the two of them together, it was difficult to tell who was the actor and who was the real McCoy.**

**On June 27, still at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion, you will see more of Willie and his friends poking fun at the most talked about public officials. And so you will have a break from laughing, the Philippines' best singers will sing to you and put you in a romantic mood.**

**Don't miss the show.**

## Boracay: Land titles for good governance

**PASSION FOR REASON**

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

MISCONCEPTIONS abound in the debate over Boracay, as the government plan to get residents and resort owners to title their lands is portrayed as land-grabbing to favor big tourism operators.

The first fact that we must acknowledge is that almost the entire island of Boracay is presently "unclassified public land." These lands belong to the state and are therefore inalienable lands of the public domain, which is to say, no land in Boracay can be owned as private property. The threshold irony therefore is that the lands are beyond the commerce of man, yet so many commercial resorts and hotels have profited upon the nation's patrimony, all of them making hay upon the wealth of the commons. For them, it is simple: better to keep Boracay inalienable in law so long as it is commercial in fact.

How ironic then that these resort owners now protest Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's plan to reclassify these lands as "alienable and disposable," which would make these lands legally accessible to private owners and investors. They who had commercialized the commons now appear horrified that the government has the candor to confront their profitable fiction. The fact is that Boracay was hijacked from the public domain the moment its beaches were taken for private profit. It is not as if, by calling them alienable and disposable today, we lose a paradise hitherto untouched by commerce.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' opponents would have been more convincing had they been worthy stewards of the public trust. Yet all these years when they profitably sat on the public domain, they failed the duties of custodianship. The island generates 12 tons of garbage daily that, I was appalled to discover in newspaper photos, found their way to open dumps—mini-Smokey Mountains in the making.

Scientists have warned about bacterial contamination of Boracay's crystal-clear waters, similar to the 1997 coliform scare that brought down tourist arrivals by 60 percent that year. In response, the government has set up a solid waste management program and urged the hoteliers to connect with the government's sewerage treatment facility. Yet as of late 2004, of the 440 businesses on the island, only 50 percent had installed pipes connecting to this treatment facility (though the figures improved after the recent clampdown by the DENR) and only 20 percent held Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs). Indeed the DENR has issued 160 "notices of violation" of environmental regulations, and has withheld the ECCs of those who persist in releasing their untreated water wastes directly into the creeks.

Worse, newspaper reports say that the leading oppositor, Dr. Orlando Sacay, resort owner and former Marcos Cabinet officer, cannot even satisfy the proposed minimum 25-meter foreshore easement, the beachfront area that must remain clear of any construction and must be kept open for the public's enjoyment and recreation. (His Waling-Waling Resort reportedly stands only 15 meters from the shoreline. Another 100 or so establishments have likewise built within the 25-meter easement.) The government's master plan for Boracay also aims to stop haphazard construction, the bane of backyard tourism, through zoning and the strict enforcement of public easements.

Boracay is to Philippine tourism as Bali is to Indonesia's. The current informal system of landholding has been bad not just for the environment, tourism and the public health, but also for the rule of law and good governance.

For as long as there are no legal titles over commercially utilized property, private access will be regulated by local powers who sell or rent out property they do not own, at prices below their fair market value. The formal system of land titles will enable us to set the value of the properties in open market transactions, or at least in professionally done and government-sanctioned assessments.

Sacay contends that the government "must not use the ownership issue to regulate the island. There are about 50 ways of imposing regulations beneficial" to all. He is right; land titling is not the only mode of regulation—but it is the only way that ensures transparency and a fair bargain, and assures the current landowner, i.e., the Filipino people, that they will be paid their fair share. Marcos-style regulation is "rule by law," and was superseded by the "rule of law" that is built upon legally defined rights.

Local residents and business people have held a rally to oppose, among others, the plan to bid out the lands. Significantly, the DENR had early on assured the small residential landowners sitting on less than 1,000 square meters that they will not be displaced and need not risk losing out in a public bidding. The ralliers say that they are being forced again to buy their lands and that they will continue fighting for their rights. Apparently, they have paid as much as P30,000 per square meter for "occupation rights." The irony is that they then claim security of tenure over their lands, a right that is best secured through land registration that will conclusively fix boundaries in specific metes and bounds, and help owners use these titles to borrow investment money from banks.

Boracay is about more than just divine views of the sea and sky. It is also about the system of good governance that is needed to preserve that beauty against the "tragedy of the commons." The government is correct when it says that we must abandon the hushed transfer of "occupation rights" over things commercial, and replace it with legally defined rights that can thrive and flourish in an open market.

* * *

*Comments to raulcp@zpdee.net*

# Cheap shot

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

ATTEMPTS to draw the United States into the political tempest buffeting President Macapagal-Arroyo do not serve any useful purpose to those seeking to topple her government or to her supporters. They are a cheap political shot that misrepresents the state of Philippine-American relations and overstates the issue of alleged US intervention in domestic Philippine politics.

A former Filipino diplomat, who resigned his government post after he was accused by the President of alleged involvement in plots to undermine her government, called for her resignation, urging her to "cut or cut cleanly" because she had lost US support. He based his conclusion that the President had lost US support on the May 11 remarks of outgoing US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone at the Foreign Correspondents Club of the Philippines. The ex-diplomat went out of his way to interpret the significance of Ricciardone's remarks, and gave his own spin on them. But with a huge embassy in Manila, the Bush administration does not need gratuitous interlocutors of its policy toward the Arroyo government.

The former diplomat also cited his meeting with Ricciardone last March 27, during which the American envoy was said to have told him that "something (was) broken and it has to be fixed" by constitutional means.

The US Embassy wisely did not react to the interpretation. Refusing to dignify the interpretation, the embassy's press attaché, Karen Kelly, said: "The more we react, the more people will believe we have a stake in it, but we don't."

Let's go to the text of Ricciardone's remarks, in reply to questions, a pertinent part of which said: "If I or one of my diplomats...meets with a number of the opposition, people sometimes boast about that and they will sometimes suggest that we're supporting them or whatever it is."

He said that he had made clear at such meeting what the US policy was: "We would support Philippine democracy, whether in the opposition, whether in the government. That's what we support."

Regarding US attitude toward political change, Ricciardone said his government was for it, adding that "change is an important thing in any living, breathing, dynamic political system." He said the great thing about democracy was that it had built-in, legal processes for change. "And if people are frustrated and angry enough about the problems of the country that they feel the change has to come about, you've got options. None of them are easy."

He went on to say: "If you choose to change your Constitution between now and (2007), that's fine. Do what you think is right. But the worst option I can imagine and the only one we, the United States, would actively oppose, is extralegal ones: violent overthrow, extralegal overthrow of the government. That, we think, would weaken this."

There is nothing in these remarks that could be taken even as a hint that Washington would support a coup.

Relations between President Arroyo and US President George W. Bush have considerably cooled last year, after Ms Arroyo withdrew the small Filipino civic-action contingent from Iraq to save the life of a Filipino truck driver who had been taken hostage by Iraqi militants. But there are no strong reasons that would compel the Bush administration to intervene in domestic affairs either to facilitate the collapse of the Arroyo government or to bail it out of its domestic woes. The Bush administration has more than enough problems in Iraq, where US forces continue to be attacked by Iraqi guerrillas and where it is having difficulty installing democracy.

Attempts to embroil Washington in moves calling for the toppling of the Arroyo government feed on the assumption—or the myth—that American support for or withdrawal of support from any Philippine administration is crucial for its survival. While it is true that the decision of the Reagan administration to tell President Ferdinand Marcos to "cut clean" prompted him to flee the country in 1986, it is wrong to say that it was purely US intervention that was responsible for that flight. That downgrades the Filipinos' role in toppling Marcos. Reagan told Marcos to cut clean after it was clearly demonstrated that if he didn't leave, angry Filipinos would storm Malacañang and probably kill him. The Filipinos had finished the job of ousting Marcos when Reagan intervened.

In Edsa II, the United States learned that it was not in its interests to intervene or to back the people power movement or to declare that it was withdrawing support from President Joseph Estrada. By 2001, the United States had little incentive to meddle in internal Philippine politics or crises, because it had few vital strategic interests to protect, following the pullout of its strategic bases in Clark field and Subic in 1992.

Those seeking Washington's intervention in the current crisis engulfing the Arroyo government are not only reading incorrect meanings in Ricciardone's statement but are also underestimating the Filipinos' capacity to resolve their own domestic problems. Not only that, they would be making political decisions in trying to topple the government, decisions that are based on false assumptions which could be disastrous. No matter how much Ms Arroyo's opponents detest the present government, it would be unrealistic for them to expect the United States to back any coup attempt.

# Boundless greed

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WAS it a mere slip of the tongue when Sen. Fred Lim addressed the main witness at yesterday's Senate *jueteng* inquiry as "Sandra Scam"?

Whether she's telling the whole truth, weaving a bombastic tale from a few truthful threads, or simply fabricating a story, there's little doubt that Sandra Cam has indeed shaken Philippine officialdom to its very foundations. As commentators said at the end of her testimony, she has elevated the jueteng "revelations" to a whole new level. Where previous witnesses relied mainly on hearsay and second-hand or "common knowledge" information, especially regarding the involvement of the President's relatives in illegal gambling payoffs, Cam stated that she herself had handed huge amounts sourced from unlawful jueteng gains to President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law and son.

Certainly helpful in creating an impression of credibility on Cam's part was her poise and articulateness, which led even a hostile interrogator like Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to concede her intelligence and ability with words.

And yet, despite the orderly and clear summation she offered the senators, Cam herself left many questions unanswered. As Santiago implied in her questions, Cam left the impression that she was given unprecedented access to the contacts and patrons of Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, then PNP director for the Bicol Region, as well as to astounding amounts of money that were deposited in her business account, on the mere basis of their "friendship."

Their relationship, which she likewise took great pains to describe as not particularly intimate, also seems to have given Mosqueda extraordinary power over her. Though she did concede to receiving a "cut" or an allowance of P100,000 a month from the money Mosqueda handed to her, this doesn't seem enough to justify the heavy demands on her time and energy (including shopping in Divisoria for the Mosquedas' household needs), not to mention the moral dilemma such duties imposed on her, including embroiling her in illegal activity. She is, after all, as she claimed, a businesswoman and politician in her own right, owning a school in whose account the jueteng money was deposited.

* * *

ASTOUNDING indeed were the amounts of jueteng returns that the different witnesses mentioned, and so far, this has been for only one region.

Even more astounding was that no one—not any of the witnesses, the interrogators or even those seeking to refute the claims of the witnesses—expressed surprise, dismay or shock at the amount of money that operators earned, as well as the bribes that supposedly regularly went to national and local officials, police officials and even churchmen.

All the amounts mentioned put me in awe of their seemingly boundless greed. If indeed the officials have been "earning" these millions from jueteng, I wonder why they still saw the need to skim off even more millions from government projects and their favored contractors.

Couldn't these officials have been content with their jueteng bounty and carried out their official duties, resisting the temptation to play around with public money that should have been used to build roads, schoolhouses or provide basic services? Couldn't they have given us at least efficient governance, since the jueteng lords were already looking after their financial health?

More than one witness, including Rep. Luis Villafuerte and former presidential assistant for Bicol affairs Mario Espinosa, said that jueteng has long been a problem plaguing every administration, with the government proving helpless against this form of gambling. Perhaps all these efforts have failed because no one really wanted them to succeed.

* * *

INTRODUCING a note of jollity, however stinging it might have been, to yesterday's inquiry was the statement of Espinosa in which he seemed to take greater affront at a witness' claim that he had a common-law wife whom he housed in an apartment than revelations that he, too, was receiving jueteng money.

Espinosa's discomfiture was underscored all the more by the presence of his wife behind him, who was shown on TV smiling and shifting uneasily. I felt sorry for Espinosa, wondering how, after all the hearings are over, he was going to face the music on the homefront.

* * *

PERHAPS we should take it as a good sign that ordinary citizens, such as the residents of villages and subdivisions around the metropolis, are deciding to get involved in celebrations of Independence Day, rather than relying on their local governments to organize the usual commemorations.

One example is Tierra Bella Homes in Quezon City, where homeowners have planned to observe Independence Day this Sunday with activities that involve three generations of residents.

The village's celebration actually began with a "Flag-in-Every-Home" campaign, led by the East Tierra Homeowners, as well as a Filipiniana book sale of rare finds: out-of-print or limited editions, and books autographed by their well-known authors.

On Sunday, third-generation residents of this 45-year-old community will lead the Entrance of Colors, the "Panatang Makabayan," and the Opening Prayer. INQUIRER columnist, essayist and historian Manuel L. Quezon III has been invited as main speaker at the community celebration. His talk will be followed by a *Balagtasan*, or poetic debate, by award-winning poets Teo T. Antonio, Michael Coroza and Vim Nadera; and an arnis exhibition by Felipe Jocano Jr. and Reginald Cruz.

Classic Filipino love songs and nationalistic hymns will also be performed by the Andres Bonifacio Choir, under the direction of Prof. Jerry Dadap. For more information, contact Armando Ampil at 931-7202 or 0918-5178225.

# Indonesia's moderate Muslims

**COMMENTARY**

*Mun'im Sirry*

ISLAM in Indonesia, whose 200 million people constitute the world's largest community of Muslims, is increasingly viewed as very different from the Islam practiced in the older Muslim communities of the Middle East. Indeed, one distinguished scholar, Bassam Tibi of Gottingen University, has described Indonesia as "a model for religiously and ethnoculturally different communities to live together in peace and mutual respect."

Some historians say that Indonesia's moderate form of Islam reflects the way in which foreign traders introduced it, as early as the 14th century. Then, the coastal culture already incorporated egalitarianism, dynamism and inter-dependence, which affected the ideology and practice of Islam. In addition, Indonesian Islam had strong Sufi influences, which emphasize the spiritual, rather than the legal, elements of the faith.

Similarly, Giora Eliraz of Hebrew University notes that the Islamic ideas that arrived in Indonesia from the Middle East changed, becoming more inclusive and pluralist in character, owing to the influence of the great 19th-century Egyptian reformer Muhammad Abduh. In Egypt, Abduh's progressive ideas gained support from only a tiny group of reformers. In Indonesia, however, Abduh's vision of Islamic modernity sparked the creation of the country's largest modernist Muslim organization, Muhammadiyah, which represents mainstream moderate Islam in Indonesia.

This history of moderation continued unabated through the 20th century, embraced by both traditionalists and modernists. The traditionalist organization Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), for example, had issued a *fatwa* (religious decree) in the 1930s declaring Dutch colonial rule to be legitimate. The early leaders of Muhammadiyah focused more on the spiritual improvement of individual Muslims, rather than public enforcement of Islamic law.

Most importantly, this orientation toward moderation has consistently drawn support from Indonesia's leading intellectuals. A remarkably creative and dedicated group of young religious and social thinkers and activists chose in the 1960s and 1970s, during the early days of Suharto's secular New Order regime, to reject the idea of an Islamic state.

At the height of the New Order's political repression of Islam during the late 1970s and early 1980s, a new pattern of thinking emerged among younger intellectuals. Their "reform movement" (*gerakan pembaruan*) is perhaps best summed up in Nurcholish Madjid's 1972 dictum: "Islam yes, Islamic party no." This new generation successfully took the idea of an Islamic state off the political agenda.

By the late 1980s, Suharto's own stance toward Islam was changing. Government concessions to religious sentiment included the promulgation of Islamic family law in 1989, the establishment of the Indonesian Muslim Intellectual Association in 1990, lifting the ban on schoolgirls' wearing the *jilbab* (head cover) in 1991, the founding of an Islamic bank (Bank Muamalat) in 1992, and abolition of the state lottery. These measures persuaded Indonesia's Muslims that they could live in accord with Islamic teaching without Indonesia becoming an Islamic state.

The state established a wide network of educational institutions that support this moderate tendency. There are now 27 branches of the State Islamic University, which integrate Islamic and general studies for undergraduate and graduate students. There are also roughly 100 Institutes of Islamic Studies, for undergraduates who want to focus on Islamic studies only.

Indonesian students and scholars actively seek to engage new ways of understanding Islam and exploring its relevance for Indonesia. For the past two decades, increasing numbers of Indonesian students have been drawn to study in the West. As a result, they have come to see Islam as a dynamic process of understanding the world, rather than a static faith that cannot change. Those who studied in the West appear well equipped to present an "Islam" more adaptable and amenable to social change.

Indeed, many Western-educated students now occupy the highest academic and political positions in Indonesia. They work actively to develop a different image of Islam—an Islam compatible with modern human achievements, including democracy, human rights and vibrant civil societies. Not confined by any fixed orthodoxy, Indonesian Muslims have taken the historic step of welcoming dissident Muslim thinkers like the Pakistani Fazlur Rahman, the Palestinian Ismail al-Faruqi, and the Iranian Seyyed Hossein Nasr, even when their ideas were unwelcome in their native lands.

It is neither exaggeration nor overly optimistic to say that Indonesia's experience could pave the way for the emergence of what might be called a "moderate Islamic network," one that forges strong links with the West.

*Mun'im Sirry is an Indonesian Muslim scholar and the author of several books, including "Resisting Religious Militancy."*

# PTAs and the nation

MANY people have mixed feelings about Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs), the word evoking images of stodgy school administrators collecting more fees and rattling off more rules while parents gossip about each other.

But I've also seen PTAs that are quietly helping this nation survive against all odds, maybe even move forward. I don't mean mobilizing people for rallies and mass protests; I think PTAs should remain non-partisan as much as possible because politics has a way of fragmenting associations.

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

I'm referring to PTAs that take up civic responsibilities and, in doing so, provide role models for the next generation of Filipino citizens. These are the PTAs that transform "values" from abstract concepts discussed in classrooms to moral compasses to be used day to day.

### Adopting a student

I got the idea for today's column when an excited Dr. Francie Laxamana, a friend from the Department of Health, told me about their PTA at the University of the Philippines Manila.

I was surprised to hear about a university-level PTA, but then why not? Maybe it's even more important we have PTAs for colleges and universities because the students are at that particularly difficult age.

Francie told me about one initiative she'd suggested for UP Manila's PTA, and this was to encourage more parents to adopt classmates of their children who are from outside Metro Manila. She had actually done this with one of her children's classmates who was from Mindanao and who had no relatives in Manila. It started out with her inviting that classmate to spend weekends with them. Eventually, that student's parents decided to migrate overseas but the student chose to continue to study in Manila. And what do Francie and her husband do? They offer to take the student into their own home!

So here was Francie asking other parents of UP Manila students to do something similar. She thinks it's especially important that PTAs help out with the medical students from the provinces. Medical school itself already poses enough stresses without students having to spend their weekends alone.

I'm giving one example of something.that PTAs can take up on their agenda. These adoption schemes are easier said than done. You need cultural sensitivity to be able to respect differences in ethnicity and religion. PTAs allow for parents to talk about their experiences here, and help others to assess if they're in the position to take up the heavy responsibilities.

### Food, drugs and traffic

I gave the adopt-a-student initiative only as one example of how PTAs can become a civic organization. There are, of course, many other areas where PTAs can become active, without necessarily involving as much commitment as an adopt-a-student plan.

Public school PTAs can be amazing with their initiatives to help keep the area around schools clean, and safe—"safe" meaning free from drugs, alcohol and pornography vendors. The idea here is to get parents to understand that you can't expect government to take up all the responsibilities of cleaning up (literally and figuratively) the streets.

Don't forget the school campus itself also needs to be safe, in its broadest definitions. For example, you can talk your heads off about nutritious foods but if your kids' schools continue to sell junk foods, you've lost the battle. PTAs should push hard to get school cafeterias to help mold healthy nutrition habits. (And here's a challenge for UP's PTA: I notice in UP Diliman how instant noodles have become best-selling snacks, the stores providing hot water for this atrocious "food".)

"Safe" also means traffic enforcement. The public schools have parents volunteering to help kids cross streets, a real nightmare in our cities. Private schools need to deal with the traffic created by their own cars. It's not enough to hire more traffic aides. I wonder how many parents in these schools have brought up car pools as a way of reducing the traffic.

I know, I'm talking to the wall. So if car pools won't click (it did in my time, but that was years ago) at least use the PTAs to talk about educating family drivers. Much of the traffic snarls are caused by drivers who pick up their employers' arrogance, creating their own counterflows, refusing to follow the traffic aides' directions. Just today, I saw a school security guard nearly run down by an SUV, careening down the road with high beams on. (This was at 7 in the morning.)

### Role models

I get particularly agitated by bad traffic habits because the kids see their drivers (or their own parents) breaking the rules. Now what right would you have to tell them to follow the country's laws if you break the laws every day, or allow the driver to do so?

I'd go a step further: get the students involved in PTA hearings, as a way of introducing them into the real world of negotiations and consensus-building. I was reading an interesting article the other day about a controversy in a high school in small town Pennsylvania where some parents had succeeded in getting their school board to ban a book that was required reading in high school, on grounds that it had some graphic descriptions of sex. Another group of parents challenged the ban and called for a PTA meeting which brought in 200 people, 10 times more than the usual number.

Students themselves got to give their views. When one of them appealed, "Don't insult our intelligence by keeping the book from us," a parent retorted, "This is not about a child's opinion. This is about parents."

An English teacher gave her view: "No one is more critical of literature than English teachers. Do you really think we as educators choose literature in terms of its titillation? Do you not realize we are battling the same immorality you are?"

In the end, the board reversed its decision, but the negotiations continue, the conservative parents calling for teachers to provide them with reading lists, complete with summaries of the books and a rating system.

Such exchanges are not confined to the States. I heard there have been attempts to ban as well books like Harry Potter locally, on grounds that the books glorify sorcery and witchcraft. PTAs should be used to challenge such views, and allow for a healthy exchange of views on issues that parents themselves feel are important. The civic sense develops even as democracy itself is put to work. And even if the students don't attend the PTAs, parents can and should talk about the meetings when they return home, discussing what happened and how the decisions were made. The meetings and the discussions at home will go a long way toward building communities—and a nation.

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# POEA officials living it up with OFW-OWWA funds

LIKE what we have been suspecting all along, President Macapagal-Arroyo's coterie of Philippine Overseas Employment Administration officials have been living the high life. The painful thing for overseas Filipino workers is: these officials have rewarded themselves with so many unnecessary perks paid for with funds from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The POEA's illegal withdrawal of P24.048 million from the OFW trust funds at OWWA to grant "incentive allowance" to the agency's top bureaucrats does not in any way help OFWs and their families. The Commission on Audit has said that such use of OWWA funds is unauthorized. POEA officials have the gall to do this because President Arroyo dispenses perks that easily, too.

POEA executives were issued mobile phones and they downloaded about P796,000 worth of games, ring tones, picture messages and other unauthorized items. The POEA incurred other charges amounting to P308,747.58 in the use of the mobile phones, in addition to the fixed charges of P400,002.80 for subscription to Globe lines or plans.

Other charges, personal and easily incurred and billed due to the nature of line subscription, included share-a-load and its processing fee, GPRS such as Globe games, photo messages, polyphonic ring tones, digital postcards, photo album, cinema and magazine covers, premium java download, instant messaging and catxtcism, etc.. All these did not in any way help OFWs and clearly were a waste of meager government resources and OFW funds.

It is also revolting to note that even the OWWA Board of Trustees justified the illegal incentive allowance by citing the increase in the OWWA collections from OFWs. The US$25 contribution from each OFW should only be spent for welfare programs for OFWs and their dependents. The incentives and perks of government officials and employees must come from the national budget, not from OFW contributions. We encourage rank and file employees of the POEA to question the agency's high officials on their illegal allowance.

The current administration continues to siphon out OFW funds at OWWA. After illegally transferring funds from OWWA to PhilHealth, Land Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines and the National Livelihood Support Fund, now comes the exposé on the illegal transfer of funds to the POEA.

We call on Congress to immediately investigate this matter. If found guilty, the concerned POEA officials should be prosecuted.

**—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,**
**chair, Migrante Sectoral Party,**
**49 Mayaman cor.**
**Matahimik Streets,**
**UP Village, Quezon City**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

## BIR ad unfair to doctors

THE BOARD of Regents of the Philippine College of Surgeons would like to express its deepest concern and disappointment regarding the Bureau of Internal Revenue advertisement (PDI, 4/7/05) depicting doctors as "pigs" and "tax evaders."

We believe that as a responsible newspaper, the INQUIRER should have considered the implications of the ad, especially as it denigrated one of the most respectable and noble professions in our country. Just like any other ordinary citizen or professional, physicians could also fall into occasional lapses from the payment of taxes, but such oversight does not make us "criminals" deserving of shabby and irresponsible treatment from the BIR and the INQUIRER.

The board feels that if the BIR really wanted to improve its tax collections, then it should just have consulted with us, or with the Philippine Medical Association, to clear plans on how to achieve its goal.

We do agree that the government needs to collect taxes to finance its various programs. But it certainly does not need to publish unfair advertisements to achieve this objective.

**—ARTURO S. DE LA PEÑA,**
**M.D., FPCS, president,**
**Philippine College of Surgeons,**
**3/F PCS Bldg., 992 Edsa, QC**

## De Quiros' wrong Edsa II story

IN CONRAD de Quiros' May 23 column, he stated that I "was turning the country into a gangster's paradise, *jueteng* being its crowning glory," and that Edsa II was mounted "so we could wipe out the festering sore of immorality—which had nothing to do with the fact that Erap had many partners in bed; the problem was that he had many partners in crime—which was threatening to contaminate the nation."

A gangster's paradise? In my presidency, the crime rate went down, with kidnappings grinding almost to a halt and with the peace and order situation so vastly improved that foreign direct investments were coming in, along with the reversal of economic growth from negative to positive; and no sovereign guarantees were given for I knew that they would only burden the nation more. All these can be verified through official data.

Crowning glory? Again, his basis? The trumped-up and unsubstantiated charges of the coup plotters? The testimony of one who has been called by an American judge as a "demonstrably corrupt provincial governor" who had admitted in open court that he has no proof of his allegations against me, except his word?

If De Quiros is adverting to the P200 million of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, documents show that it cannot be so easily disbursed by any officer or trustee of the EMYF, a bona fide foundation of which I am not even a part.

The claim that the EMYF was a front for money laundering falls flat on its face because the money is still intact and the records, submitted to the court, will show that this was indeed meant for Muslim scholars.

As an elected senator of the republic, I pushed for the legalization of jueteng; and as president, I pushed it some more. Why would one who, De Quiros claims, has benefited hugely from jueteng want to legalize it?

Partners in crime? Who were my partners, and what were those crimes? Again, what's his basis for saying this? Chavit Singson's words? Various Commission on Audit reports have shown him lying about the diversion of the tobacco tax funds, which he pocketed for himself. And what crime have I committed and have been convicted of?

De Quiros says that twice "tyranny" was stamped out, and that in the two Edsas there was good and evil written over them.

If tyranny had occurred during my governance, it was the tyranny of the elite civil society that respected no law, thwarting even the sovereign will of the Filipino people through mob rule. It was the elite that destroyed democracy and all the institutions it stands for.

De Quiros intimated that I was the biggest sinner of all. What sin have I committed then? Being disliked by a cardinal and civil society? Giving the poor hope? Being supported by the Filipino people, 44 percent of whom expressed their trust in me to this day? Can anyone De Quiros claims to be evil be trusted by so many?

Edsa II is a story of good versus evil, where evil triumphed, the reason there is today moral bankruptcy.

**—JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**

## Worthy of emulation

I WOULD like to inform INQUIRER readers regarding our experience during a trip via the North Luzon Expressway.

Last March 4, at about 2:30 p.m., our Mitsubishi Delica Van had engine trouble, which forced us to stop on the highway. While waiting for our company mechanic, two patrol officers of the NLEX approached us. They were Michael David and Carl John Delante. They assisted us in requesting for a towing service. They did their duties and responsibilities very well, and we really appreciated what they did for us.

We hope that the way they helped us will serve as an example to others. Our warmest thanks to David and Delante.

**—ART M. SOLIVA,**
**West Avenue, Quezon City**

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## On the tape and 'jueteng'

I AM very much alarmed. If the President's cellular phone can be tapped, then no one is safe! This incident must be investigated. The perpetrators must be punished. This shows to what extent people who want to destroy the President would go to further their selfish ambitions.—**Eyriche Cortez, Makati City**

* * *

**VOICES ON INQ7.NET**

The tapes just indicate that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cannot claim to be pure and that there were grounds for the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s claims that he was cheated by her.

Also, I am offended by her lawyer's arrogance and pomposity during his interview on the ABS-CBN News Channel. He kept saying that the source is questionable and that they are interfering with our economy, which is getting better. Our economy is slowly dying and whatever the Palace says, we know it's not going anywhere.

Furthermore, the source might be questionable, but it is the tape that interests us. It is depressing to think that we still have to endure her presidency for the next five years.—**Sherill Villanueva, Jeddah**

* * *

The accusations being thrown at Ms Arroyo's administration, from the incredible testimonies of admitted *jueteng* operators turned government witnesses, to the exposés of doctored cellphone audio tapes of Ms Arroyo supposedly colluding with a Commission on Elections official could only have come from one source with one purpose: Ms Arroyo's political foes, who are hell-bent on bringing down her government.

Her opponents probably have figured that five years is too long to wait for their next shot at seizing the presidency. To me, the First Gentleman or any of Ms Arroyo's children would have to be very stupid to get themselves into this jueteng mess after having witnessed first-hand the same scandal causing the downfall of Estrada. It simply defies every fundamental logic and conventional wisdom. Only gullible people will fall for this story. We're seeing dirty Filipino politics at its ugliest.—**Bobby Mutia, Los Angeles, California**

* * *

I am really wondering: if the opposition has a taped conversation and they say that it is authentic while the administration also has a tape, how could this happen? Did both of them tap the conversation of the President and the guy on the phone? And why is the administration so keen on filing a case against the person who allegedly tapped the conversation?

I think it is more important to know if the tape is true and genuine... I think it would be better if the "tape" would be sent to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation for further examination...—**Roger Barroga, Las Piñas City**

Win this *Inquirer mug

**InqBox** **Question of the Week**

**What do you think should be done to some top government and police officials accused of receiving huge amounts of jueteng money?**

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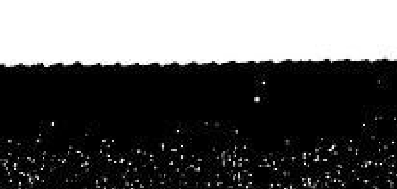

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# *Town cop chief sacked following gambling raid*

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The chief of police in Mabalacat, Pampanga, was relieved on Wednesday after a raiding team from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame arrested at least 21 players of the Spanish card game "monte" in the town on Tuesday night.

Supt. Rosvi Manulid was recalled to this regional police camp to face investigation for an administrative case, according to Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police chief.

Manulid, who had held the post for almost two years, was the first casualty of what Lapinid called "unrelenting" anti-illegal gambling campaign in Pampanga.

He was the third police official sacked following raids on illegal gambling dens. Last week, two police officers in Meycauayan, Bulacan, were relieved over "loteng," a new "jueteng" variant.

Mabalacat, a town of 27 barangays with more than 200,000 residents, has only 60 policemen. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Gambling lords go hi-tech in GenSan, elude police

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Due to the intensified campaign against illegal gambling here, operators, sales coordinators and bettors have gone high-tech to elude arrest.**

Because of this, Mayor Predro Acharon Jr. said it was now hard to curb the illegal numbers game "last-two."

Last-two is based on the last two digits of the winning numbers of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes draw.

"The government should stop the sweepstakes draw if it wants to stop last-two once and for all," the mayor said.

The mayor was reacting to the directive issued by Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, Central Mindanao police chief, who ordered all his field commanders to stop illegal numbers games in three days.

Acharon revealed that last-two operators, sales coordinators and bettors are now using mobile phones, fax machines and electronic mail as means of communication and as means of carrying out their operations.

"You could no longer see them roaming around the streets and other public places. They use cellular phones, fax machines and even electronic mail in the transactions. If there's a need to meet personally, they go straight to the house of their contacts," the mayor said.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, city police chief, launched an all-out campaign against last-two operators and financiers after his name was dragged as among those receiving a P30,000 monthly payola.

Since the anti-illegal gambling campaign was launched by the police last month, about 25 persons, mostly bettors and sales agents, have been charged in court.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, still smarting from a high-profile investigation on her alleged involvement in illegal logging operations, Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil now faces a new allegation: that she gave the "blessing" to the entry of "jueteng" in some towns in the province.

The Senate committees on public order and games and amusement are set to invite Gov. Palma Gil and 20 other personalities, including seven police officials, to the Senate investigation after they were tagged as beneficiaries of the operations of the illegal numbers game.

Palma Gil, through her spokesperson, Joseph Neilwin Bravo, said she was already aware that she was one of those to be summoned by the Senate.

"The governor said she was ready to face the Senate investigation on the jueteng scandal. She wanted to clear her name. She is innocent, she hates gambling," Bravo said.

But Bravo said jueteng "never existed in Davao Oriental until police provincial director Senior Supt. Bienvenido Latag came in the province."

"Jueteng only existed here when Latag, a former police provincial director of Camarines Sur, was assigned in Davao Oriental. Such illegal numbers game is very much alien to the people here...," he added. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# 3,000 Boracay folk rally to protest plan on land titles

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—Around 3,000 Boracaynons joined a rally here "to defend their land" and to condemn Environment Secretary Defensor's plan to declare the island alienable and disposable.

Carrying placards and streamers saying "Amin ang Isla," the Boracaynons from the island's three villages marched from two assembly points from the opposite ends of the island-resort and converged at the Balabag public plaza for a protest rally.

Resort owners and claimants of pieces of property on the island wore red ribbons and shirts "to show our unity to defend our lands."

Protesters marched along the famous white beach accompanied by Ati-Atihan beats of drums and xylophones. Many had children in tow as they chanted slogans against Defensor.

Defensor's earlier pronouncement that the claimants have the option to have their ownership confirmed by judicial action once the island is declared alienable and disposable failed to placate the resort owners and the island's residents.

They vowed to continue with their campaign to block Defensor's confirmation with the Commission on Appointments if he maintains his position that the island is government property.

Orlando Sacay, vice president for external affairs of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), said there would be no compromise if Defensor will not budge from his position.

Sacay told a press conference here that a meeting with the environment secretary would be "useless" if Defensor would push for a public bidding of the pieces of property.

The land claimants insisted that the government should instead grant titles through judicial confirmation and not by matching the highest bidder on lands that they have occupied for generations. The current rate for lots on the beach runs from P25,000 to P30,000 per square meter.

The BFI has gathered 3,181 signatures in support of a petition opposing Defensor's appointment.

Defensor is set to issue an administrative order declaring 579.295 hectares or 56.13 percent of the 1,032-hectare island as "alienable and disposable."

Parts of the island measuring 259.6 ha (about 25 percent) will be declared as forest lands and will be used for plantation and fishponds while 118.6 ha (or 11.49 percent of the island) will be categorized as protected areas which include parks.

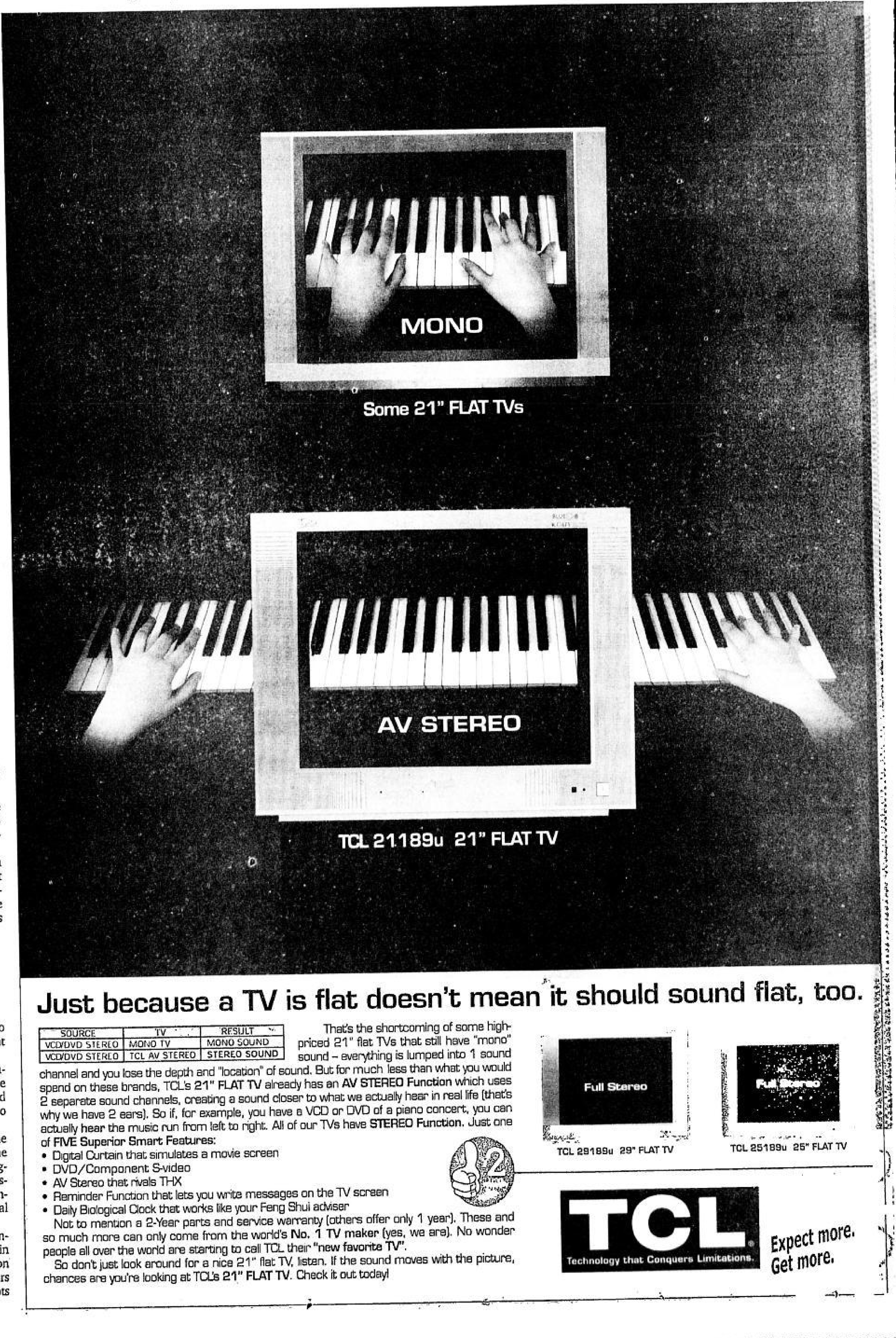
# Mindanao mayors say they back GMA

CHRISTIAN and Muslim mayors from Mindanao yesterday vowed to fully support President Macapagal-Arroyo against plots to unseat her.

In a press statement, mayors who are members of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)-Mindanao Major Island Conference met with the President recently to express their support for Ms Arroyo.

The statement said Ms Arroyo thanked the mayors for their support. The President, the statement said, also pledged to continue bringing the government closer to their region, assuring them of unhampered support for Mindanao projects and full release of their Internal Revenue Allotment to fund public services.

Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. of Binalonan, Pangasinan, national president of the LMP, said in the same statement that he handed a resolution to Ms Arroyo signed by the Mindanao mayors pledging to support the President against plots to bring down her administration.



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Purok Rose, Bgy Comon, Infanta, Quezon

AVENILLA, John Christian D.
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BALDONADO, Angelica
Saysain, Bagac, Bataan

BALETE, Marilyn B.
110 Taywanak Ilaya, Alfonso, Cavite

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BELMONTE, Claire Anne
053 Loyola St, Bgy IV Pob., Malilipot, Albay

BELMONTE, Jamir R.
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Malunay, Santa Barbara, Pangasinan

CALIMQUIM, Elma S.
Malunay, Santa Barbara, Pangasinan

CALUBAYAN, Myrna M.
164 Capt. B. Paredes St., Imus Cavite

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Bgy 48-B, Cabungaan, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

DANO, Juvilyn N.
Blk 8 Lot 3 Ph 2, Executive Village, Subic, Zambales

DE LEON, Treshia Mai M.
Sampaguita St., Villa Corazon, San Agustin, San Fernando City, Pampanga

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Poblacion, Masalay, Oriental Mindoro

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Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

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San Sebastian, San Vicente, Ilocos Sur

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MEDINA, Joseph C.
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MERCADO, Edilberto M.
62 Manibaug, Pasig Phase 2, Porac, Pampanga

ONA, Mark Edwin
32 Interior Sita, Marulas Market, Valenzuela City

ORENCILLO, Arnel D.
P-5 Peñafrancia Street, Bgy Morera, Guinobatan, Albay

PANURINGAN, Leonida S.
021-A Siniguelas Extension, Bgy Pias, Mapandan, Pangasinan

PETCHALIN, Rose Marie S.
Blk 65 Lot 33, Navy, Capas, Tarlac

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113 Narciso Street, Josefa Subdivision, Angeles City

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Bgy 20, Sto. Tomas Pinili, Ilocos Norte

RAZON, Nerisa G.
Bgy 48-A, Bagong Pook, San Antonio, Cavite City

RIZARDO, Randy
c/o Cryzhelle Candy Store
2048 P. Hizon Street, Angeles City

RODRIGUEZ, John Joseph R.
143 Bgy Ibaba, Samal, Bataan

ROLDAN, Ronald
Blk 14 Lot 5, Dasma 4, Golden City, Dasmariñas, Cavite

SALVADOR, Rafael C.
114 Payar, San Carlos City, Pangasinan

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82 Lakandula Street, Baguio City

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31 Engineer's Hill, Baguio City

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40-B Balintawak St., Old Albay, Legaspi City

BALMACEDA, Maria M.
Arellano Street, Dagupan City

BELMONTE, Alicia A.
Loyola Street, Malilipot, Albay

CALUBAYAN, Jaime M.
183 Capt. B. Paredes Street, Pob. 1-A, Bgy 1, Imus, Cavite

CONVENTO, Marian Blanca T.
Mayon Avenue, Bulurtan St., Naga City

DECIERDO, Mary Ann B.
JP Rizal Street, Paliwas, Obando, Bulacan

ECLARINAL, Roxxine
North Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambales

MALIXI, Laurence
Sucoc, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur

MERCED, Christopher F.
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ROGADO, Cyruss Angelo
Tambo Malaki, Indang, Cavite

SANTOS, Moriam M.
Malunay, Santa Barbara, Pangasinan

SORIANO, Tony M. Sr.
11 Bgy Taloglog, Mangatarem, Pangasinan

TUGADE, Violeta C.
31 Engineer's Hill, Baguio City

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BASANGAN, Rolando
351 Bago St., Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan

BASANGAN, Imelda E.
351 Bago St., Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan

BASANGAN, Niño Romel
351 Bago St., Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan

DIGMA, Lolinie F.
Km 12, Bucayao, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

ERIGBUAGAS, Arlyn D.
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LOSENDO, Anita
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REYES, Adelaida N.
115 Vida Benita Subd., Cabanatuan City

REYES, Nancy G.
524 Santug, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

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Bgy Cabucbucan, Rizal, Nueva Ecija

DELA CRUZ, Lourdes Christie
Pangpatag, Candon City, Ilocos Sur

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4482 Chicago Street, DCS, Dau City, Mabalacat, Pampanga

DIGMA, Yolanda
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ESTORCO, Silverio O.
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GARCIA, Mary Ann M.
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MANGUENI, Ligaya
Bucayao, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

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432 Purok 5, Santug Norte, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

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CLARA, Macawlia N.
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MONDRAGON, Lucille
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PILON, Leo F.
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29 Oñate St., Mandurriao, Iloilo City

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BSP Camp Capitol Hills, Cebu City

ARRABIS, Mariz P.
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10 Riverside, Bulacao Pardo, Cebu City

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Bgy 35, Alunan, Baybay, Bacolod City

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Carugdog, Lezo, Aklan

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252-Z Urgello Sambag I, Cebu City

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PITOGO, Felrose
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32-C, Alunan Baybay, Bacolod City

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RAMOS, Lilibeth J.
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Poblacion Ayungon, Negros Oriental

TEVES, Jay G.
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CUERPO, Rizalie Joy P.
Sitio Sto. Niño, Back Japer Quiot, Cebu City

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LANDICHO, Levis
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LANTIN, Jenny
Blk 66 Ph VI-B Purok San Roque, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

LUCERO, Leni A.
Rizal Street, Leyte, Leyte

OÑATE, Joshua F.
Bgy 36 Araneta Street, Bacolod City

PADRON, Niña Angela
Media, Poblacion Argao, Cebu

TUMPAG, Clint
Zone XI, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

YCONG, Luzviminda
2580 Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City

### 15 WINNERS OF CAPS

BUSTAMANTE, Rebralyn
De Paul Subdivision, Dove Street, Casili Consolacion, Cebu

CABILLON, Luzviminda
10 Riverside Bulacao Pardo, Cebu City

CASTILLOTE, Neil
Daan Lungsod Alcoy, Cebu

CONCHA, Juan Paulo E.
544 Plaridel St., Can-Ugab Dol., Abuyog, Leyte

DEGAMO, Irenao M.
500 C. Padilla Street, Cebu City

GALAS, Jenny C.
Purok Manunwagon, Bgy Alijis, Bacolod City

LAGARE, Vicente
Bgy 36 Araneta Street, Bacolod City

LANDICHO, Laurice
49-P Lorega Street, Cebu City

LUCERO, Lucelo D.
Rizal Street, Leyte, Leyte

MORANTE, Elaine Joy D.
146 R. Yorac Street, EB Magalona, Negros Occidental

NAVARES, Fe E.
Magay Street, San Jose Village, Lawaan 3 Talisay City, Cebu

PLATEROS, Sandra
Alunan Baybay, Bacolod City

SABLAN, Aina H.
Bgy Canlapwas, Purok 2, Catbalogan, Samar

TABOADA, Joseph
152-B Katipunan Street, Labangon, Cebu City

TAMBOLERO, Shane Lee C.
Blk 47 7 San Dionisio Subd., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

### 15 WINNERS OF SUNVISORS

BEDIA, Jane
Lagubang Bourdac, Iloilo City

BIALEN, Rizar Jules
Paho, Nagrud Leganes, Iloilo City

CORDOVA, Joel Christian G.
Gen. Luna Street, Poblacion Cauayan, Negros Occidental

DEGAMO, Victoria C.
Bgy Canipe-an, Hinunangan, Southern Leyte

EULOGIO, Tarhata May Luningning H.
Bgy Bito-on, Jaro, Iloilo City

FETALINO, Renor C.
Sto. Niño, Dumalag, Capiz

GARANGANAO, Godofredo C.
Sipalay City, Negros Occidental

GO KHO, William
Go-li-Agt Rosario, Rojas St., Bacolod City

GUINTO, Analien S.
F. Jaca Street, Inayawan, Cebu City

LAZO, Josefino Jr.
884 Upper Canduman, Mandaue City, Cebu

LIBATON, Baryl Niño F.
Punong Sambaan, Cebu

PESCADOR, Arlene
Upper Canduman, Mandaue City, Cebu

TACUGUE, Federico
P68 Blk 67, Purok San Roque, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

TACUGUE, Justine Mae S.
P68 Blk 67, Purok San Roque, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

YBAÑEZ, Frizie
1045 PMJ Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City

### 15 WINNERS OF WRISTBANDS

AMOGOD, Randy J.
Zone 1 Calong, Calong Airport Subdivision, Bacolod City

ARINGO, Joel
Paraiso Fabrica Sagay City, Negros Occidental

BAUNSIT, Joeva
Centro Labogon, Mandaue City

BAUNSIT, Melchor
Centro Labogon, Mandaue City

CAPANANG, Mary Forsythia
Zone 15 Calaparan, Arevalo, Iloilo City

DATUIN, Charlyn R.
c/o Corazon Argao Store, Public Market, Cebu City

ESTER, Kurt John
1881 Capitol Green Hills, Cebu City

LANTIN, Jeron
Blk 66 Ph VI-B, Purok San Roque, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

MARTIR, Mauro
Blk 5 Phase I, Bgy Pahanocoy, Bacolod City

MORES, Gilbert A.
c/o Jerra Store, 4 Bloodstone St., City Heights, Ph II, Taculing, Bacolod City

NOEL, Jayme
Ph 3 Purok Lubi, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

TATOY, Jovy S.
Bunsod Valderrama, Antique

VARGAS, Marlou J.
Lopue's Village Airport, Bacolod City

VERGARA, Albert P.
119 Esperas Avenue, Tacloban City

YBAÑEZ, Felimon
1045 PMJ Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City

### 15 WINNERS OF BANDANNAS

BAYLON, Rufina G.
Delicioso, Ilog, Negros Occidental

BELDA, Jana Mae
Bk. Fatima, Bulacao Pardo, Cebu City

BUSTAMANTE, Rebecca C.
De Paul Subdivision, Dove Street, Casili Consolacion, Cebu

CABILLON, Zenaida
Palwa, Maria Inayawan, Cebu City

CANCEKO, Rene O.
Sta. Cruz, Bgy Banquerohan, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental

DEPON, Rosalyn
Rose Mart, San Dionisio, Iloilo

GANGOSO, Thelma
Agcuyawan Calsada, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo

GONZAGA, Logelaine
AC Cortes Avenue, Looc, Mandaue City

LANTIN, Janald
Blk 66 Ph VI-B, Park San Roque, Bgy Handumanan, Bacolod City

LUCERO, Lolita A.
Rizal Street, Leyte, Leyte

PAGAMBONAN, Marlyn S.
Bgy 8, Sto. Niño Ext., Tacloban City

PITOGO, Rosalinda
77-5 Lorega Lewis Street, Cebu City

TAMPIPI, Joel C.
C. Mangubat St., Poblacion, Lapu-Lapu City

VILLARIN, Joanna
Bgy 36, Araneta Street, Bacolod City

VILLARIN, Melony L.
Bgy 36, Araneta Street, Bacolod City

## MINDANAO

### 50 WINNERS OF BMX BIKES

AGANG, Gloria B.
RH 10 Canizares Site, Cotabato City

AGANG, Shanien B.
RH 10 Canizares Site, Cotabato City

ANDRADA, Flordeliza
Blk1 Lot 8 Ph1, El Rico Vista Village, Bacaca, Davao City

ANDRADA, Mechelle R.
Blk1 Lot 8 Ph1, El Rico Vista Village, Bacaca, Davao City

ASPERIN, Janice
Blk 1 Lot 7, Villa Verde Subdivision, San Miguel, Tagum City

BALLON, Genniedelle Fria A.
Notre Dame of Kiamba, Kiamba, Sarangani Province

BARILLO, Arriane Mae Q.
Blk 3 Zone 2, Bgy Fatima, General Santos City

BELTRAN, Khenny
Carmen Drive A, Southcom, Zamboanga City

CABRIDO, Mildred N.
Farmacia Pingoy, Public Market, Surallah, South Cotabato

CAIBIGAN, Nelson D.
Prk. Million Dawis Tandag, Surigao Del Sur

CAMACHO, Emily N.
c/o GJC Store, Public Market
Townsite Lupon, Davao Oriental

CARDOZA, Angelito Y.
339 Antipolo Street, Koronadal City

CASTILLO, Vicenta G.
P19-A Dalipuya, Iligan City

CERTIFICO, Fausto Jr.
c/o Lynlyn Galicia, Blk 35 Lot 2 Ph 2, Bgy Sto Niño, Tugbok, Mintal, Davao City

CERTIFICO, Marilie
c/o Lynlyn Galicia, Blk 35 Lot 2 Ph 2, Bgy Sto Niño, Tugbok, Mintal, Davao City

CORTEZ, Ricky V.
27 Marang Street, General Santos City

COTERON, Rizel
Blk 14 Lot 26 Ph 2, San Lorenzo Village, Pusn, Davao City

CUADRASAL, Anita D.
Villa Rosario, Casinglot Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental

DIAZ, Romeo G.
3/F Yeo Din Hee Bldg., Tomas Claudio Street, Zamboanga City

EULOGIO, Resty
Purok 25, Ma-a, Davao City

EVIOTA, Ruby
Blk 14 Lot 13 Ph 5, El Rico Vista Village, Bajada, Davao City

EXCLAMADOR, Rodolfo O.
2583 Zone 4, Pasil, Kauswagan, CDO

FONG, Kos
32 Quezon Avenue cor. Tiza Street, General Santos City

HEDORIO, Ronald F.
Purok 39, Lumicad Compound, Ma-a, Davao City

HILLANA, Norma
Village II, Libertad, Butuan City

JUAREZ, Ronald
c/o JRS Express, Midsayap, Cotabato

LAMBO, Jessie Tapia
1 Agudo Road, Lapasan, CDO

LARIOSA, Leticia L.
c/o Southern Drug, Digos City

LOY Sherie Lyn D.
112 Lapu-Lapu Street, Agdao, Davao City

MENDOZA, Marivic G.
c/o 149 Dustone Drive, Santa Catalina, Zamboanga City

MIPANGKAT, Amer M.
2930 Luna Tirad Pass Street, Digos City

MOLINA, Reino E.
c/o Daisy Store
Zone-V, San Roque, Zamboanga City

OCAMPO, Florante III
346 Don Julian Village, Ma-a, Davao City

PACLAR, Albert Jun C.
Prk. 19, Fuentes, Iligan City

PATALINHUG, Mara I.
Prk. 25, Peoples Village, Ma-a, Davao City

PELPINOSAS, Rosafe
San Isidro, Nueva Iloco Mawab, Comval Province

QUIBOD, Alrone S.
Zone 4, Pasil Kauswagan, CDO

REAMBONANZA, Jarvin S.
4th St., Southcom Vil., Zamboanga City

RIOS, Geronima M.
c/o Mercy Hegary, Purok 3, Maparat, Compostela, Comval Province

RIVERA, Evangeline
RH 10, Canizares Site, Cotabato City

RIVERA, Jason
RH 10, Canizares Site, Cotabato City

RIVERA, Marichu
RH 10, Canizares Site, Cotabato City

RUIZ, Francis Ray C.
Marigold St., Green Meadows Subd., Blk 5 Lot 12 Ph 1, Mintal, Davao City

SABATER, Elisa S.
Bugac, Ma-a, Davao City
Saban Blacksmith

SALIGAN, Monica
Blk 13 Lot 16, Samatha Homes, Catalunan, Pequeño, Davao City

SANZ, Lorife S.
Blk 7 Lot 6 Ph 1, Gensaville Subdivision, General Santos City

SILANOVA, Edwina P.
P-4 Bgy Santiago, Iligan City

TORREÑA, Kassantha
c/o Iris Store, Iris Street, Green Meadows, Mintal, Davao City

VILLANUEVA, Beberly M.
Purok 25, People's Vil., Ma-a, Davao City

YAP, Elsa M.
c/o Zamboanga Marketing
Tomas Claudio Street, Zamboanga City

### 15 WINNERS OF T-SHIRTS

ANDRADA, Medel
Blk 1 Lot 8 Ph 1, El Rio Vista Village, Bacaca, Davao City

BACUS, Gedion
San Pablo, Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur

BARRIOS, Emma Rosa
410 Talomo Proper, Davao City

BEREZO, Mercedita
1206 San Isidro, Davao Oriental

BOLORAN, Ma. Soleda A.
Blk 3 Lot 21, Dilio IV Subd., Ma-a, Davao City

DIDAL, Rosemarie
c/o Norma Gelcame Blk 1 Lot 4 Ph 2, Roseville Subd., Lanang, Davao City

ESTOCE, Lorenzo
Purok 1, Tibungo, Davao City

EXCLAMADOR, Ralquez P.
2583 Zone 4, Pasil, Kauswagan, CDOro City

HIFARVA, Rodrigo G.
c/o Farmacia Pingoy, Public Market, Surallah, South Cotabato

IGAÑA, Nemia
People's Village, Ma-a, Davao City

MOLINA, Reynalyn J.
Upper San Roque, Zamboanga City

MONTE, Jocelyn N.
Bitibal, Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental

SABATER, Rodolfo M.
Bugac, Ma-a, Davao City, Saban Blacksmith

SALIGACUR, Mary Joan
Blk 13 Lot 15, Samantha Homes, Catalunan, Pequeño, Davao City

SIMBORIO, Florita L.
Bitibal, Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental

### 15 WINNERS OF CAPS

ACOL, Bieszel S.
Northern Poblacion Plaridel, Misamis Occidental

ALESINA, Prenz Dominic N.
Blk 7 Lot 41 Ph 1, Banahaw Street, Jubilla Subd., Tigatto, Davao City

CABRERA, Richard Q.
Prk. 25 Peoples Village, Ma-a, Davao City

CARNICER, Mary Rose A.
Purok 8, Poblacion Mawab, Compostela Valley

DE JUAN, Gerocha B.
c/o Geronimo De Juan, Purok Centro, Km 29, JP Laurel, Panabo City

ENRIQUEZ, Marvin G.
c/o 149 Dustone Drive, Santa Catalina, Zamboanga City

FERRER, Maria Teresita M.
693 Cabanto Drive, Canlas Street, Zamboanga City

IGAÑA, Adriana
c/o Rubing Store, People's Village, Ma-a, Davao City

INIEGO, Rosenie O.
Purok 25, People's Village, Ma-a, Davao City

MONTOJO, Wenceslao A. Jr.
Apt. E, Short Compound, San Jose Road, Bgy Zone F, Zamboanga City

MORALES, Maylyn
c/o Mackys Bakeshop & Store, Country Homes, Cabantian, Davao City

QUIBOD, Generoso S.
2454 Pasia Kauswagan, CDO

QUIBOD, Rosario S.
2454 Pasia Kauswagan, CDO

QUIMPO, Irene C.
INC Compd., Montalban Burgos Street, CDO

TOLENTINO, Niel
755 Rizal Extension, Padada, Davao del Sur

### 15 WINNERS OF SUNVISORS

ALDAY, Ferdinand C.
Dynasty Court Hotel, Tiano Hayes Street, CDO

BEZA, Francis F.
1253 Paping Itum, Macabalan, CDO

BUENVIAJE, Enco B.
c/o Print w/ Paper Specialist
Pilao Street, Zamboanga City

CARNICER, Josephina A.
Purok 8 Poblacion, Mawab, Comval Province

CARNICER, Roland Anthony A.
Purok 8 Poblacion, Mawab, Comval Province

EULOGIO, Jubilia L.
Purok 25, Ma-a, Davao City

FUENTES, Judith E.
c/o Assaworld Pawnshop
296 Igal Street, Carmen 900, CDO

GABINETE, Edgardo T.
Quirino District, Padada, Davao Del Sur

GUTIERREZ, Jolzer B.
People's Village, Ma-a, Davao City

MABUAL, Analyn
c/o Mackys Bakeshop & Store
Zone 4, Country Homes, Cabantian, Davao City

MARAVILLAS, Anjoanette S.
Sammy Uy Relocation Site, Km 11, Sasa, Davao City

MOLINA, Reginaldo
c/o Daisy Store
Zone 4, San Roque, Zamboanga City

NUÑAL, Ernest F.
Raven Drive, Km 4, Pasonanca, Zamboanga City

VILLANUEVA, Nelson M.
Purok 25, Ma-a, Davao City

ZUMILE, Jorose
Notre Dame Avenue, Cotabato City

### 15 WINNERS OF WRISTBANDS

BAYANI, Charlyn
Nuevo Iloco, Mawab, Comval Province

CABALLERO, Joshua Jose Antonio
77 Capitol Compd., Osmeña Street, CDO

CORPUZ, Jonald A.
Purok 2, Poblacion Mawab, Comval Province

ESPINOL, Mildred Lim
Zone 2, Maasin, Zamboanga City

FERNANDEZ, Noinio
Blk 8, Camacol, Purok II, Upper Glarian, Zamboanga City

GATO, Josefina G.
Purok 4, Gamaon Dist., Mangagoy, Bislig City

JUMAWAN, Rossian U.
Upper Limonzo, Padada, Davao Del Sur

MIGUEL, Krianne Dee M.
1253 Paping Itum, Macabalan, CDO

MIPANGKAT, Amer M.
2930 Luna Tirad Pass Street, Digos, Davao City

OCARIS, Cristy C.
58 Bohosano Drive, Camino Nuevo, Zamboanga City

OCARIS, Edlyn C.
58 Bohosano Drive, Camino Nuevo, Zamboanga City

SANDIGO, Sakina
Bau Uffog, Mazalam Street, Malagapas RH 10, Cotabato City

SERNA, Jonalyn P.
Tulungatung, Zamboanga City

SUMANGAY, Rogelio
41 13-14th Street, Nazareth, CDO

VALLEDOR, Evelyn Q.
052 Indanag, Cagayan De Oro City

### 15 WINNERS OF BANDANNAS

BARILLO, Malla Q.
Blk 3 Zone 2 Bgy Fatima, General Santos City

CARDOZA, Lucia B.
339 Antipolo St., Koronadal City

CASTANTE, Prudencio A.
Sunrise Drive, Southcom Village, Zamboanga City

CUADRA, Ricky E.
0205 Paping Itum, Macabalan, CDO

DATES, Joy Mariz C.
Purok 7, A. Poblacion Monkayo, Davao City

DORIMON, Rosalinda L.
Bgy Tatayne, Kauswagan, Lanao Del Norte

EROY, Coralyn Enson
c/o Hilton Grocery
11th Door U&I Bldg., 2 Palao Market, Iligan City

EULOGIO, Efren Jr.
Purok 25, Ma-a, Davao City

EXCLAMADOR, Ruby P.
2583 Zone 4, Pasil, Kauswagan, CDO

GALIDO, Doroteo Ador
Estañol Subdivision, Sudapin, Kidapawan City

HENODIALA, Amil
Purok 1, Bisa Kawit Kauswagan, Lanao Del Norte

LABRA, Joey B.
c/o Golden Ribbon 2
Pura Brillantes Street, Zamboanga City

LADAZA, Medelyn S
Upper San Roque, Zamboanga City

VARQUEZ, Pedro
Purok 10, Bucana, Davao City

VETICAROS, Evelyn H.
Purok 6, Poblacion Mawab, Comval Province

## NCR

### 50 WINNERS OF BMX BIKES

ABANDO, Nerissa S. J.
4420 Dallas Street, Bangkal, Makati City

ADRIANO, Kenneth S.
7062 Wilson Street, Makati City

AMASCUAL, Luzvisa R.
09 Matiaya Street, Diliman, QC

ARROBANG, Reggie J.
Blk 4 Lot 2 Star Village, Japan Street, Sta Ana, Taytay, Rizal

ATIVO, Salva
47 Scout Fernandez Street, Bgy Laging Handa, Quezon City

BALAHAN, Garlan Lester
Northville B1, Bgy Bagong Nayon, Antipolo City

BANIA, Arlene
1465 Metrica Street, Sampaloc, Manila

BIAZON, Antonio Jr.
Blk 29 Lot 7, St. Francis Street, Maricaban, Pasay City

BIENTO, Milky
098 J. Rizal Street, Rivera Compound, Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, QC

BRINA, Bhing C.
47 Scout Fernandez Street, Bgy Laging Handa, Quezon City

BUENAFE, Jovilo
Blk 17 Lot 33, NTA Village, Montalban Heights, San Jose Rodriguez, Rizal

COMON, John Francis
56 Agham Road, BIR, Diliman, QC

CRUZ, Nicole B.
344 Maginoo Street cor. Humabon, Mag. Village, Tondo, Manila

CUEVAS, Filipinas
104 Chico Street, Comembo, Makati City

DOMINGO, Nenita P.
26-G Oliveros Drive, Balintawak, QC

DURAN, Antonio Jr.
527 Santa Maria Street, VRV San Jose Rodriguez, Rizal

ENCARGUES, Gina Joy
Blk 4 Lot 10, Queensland Village, Damong Maliit, Novaliches, Quezon City

FASOY, Gilbert H.
359 Camia Street, Agham Rd., Diliman QC

GASPAR, Verena B.
10 Acacia St., Camella Homes, Ph V, Pulang Lupa II, Las Piñas City

GRANDE, Jay Ann Y.
73 Tolentino Street, SFDM, QC

GUANGCO, Magdalena S.
17 Yakal Street, Banaba Court Subd., Nayong Silangan, Antipolo Rizal

LANSANGAN, Flordeliza L.
2078-E Smith St., San Andres, Malate, Mla.

LAPLANA, Jing E.
38 Tabayog Street, Mandaluyong City

LIMJOCO, Roberto M.
94-E Palawan Street, Pag-asa, QC

LOPEZ, Josephine G.
570 Tapuri Street, Tondo, Manila

LOPEZ, Rosanna D.
2832 E. Zobel St., Poblacion, Makati City

LUSTESTICA, Sheryl
11 Road, 20 North Daanghari, Bagong Tanyag, Taguig, MM

MALATE, Yolanda P.
991 A Int. 4 Dagupan Street, Tondo, Manila

MANCENIDO, Corazon M.
39 C. Avecilla Street, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City

MARIBOG, Rosmilo C.
67 N. Lorada Street, Sto. Rosario Silangan, Pateros, Manila

MARIN, Pablo P.
607 GSIS St., Bgy Malanday, San Mateo, Rizal

MONTA, Mantes C.
73 Tolentino Street, SFDM, QC

NEPOMUCENO, Ralph Dominic D.R.
8 Mabmiman Street, Taytay Rizal

OPEÑA, Leonarda
286 Madrigal Bldg, Escolta, Sta. Cruz, Mla.

PADILLA, Victor C.
66 San Sotero Street, San Juan, MM

PANELO, Cristina E.
Blk 25 Lot 3A Ph 1-A, Kasiglahan Village, San Jose Plains, Rodriguez, Rizal

POBOCAN, Josephine
7415 Swimming Pool St., Maligaya, Cal. City

RATON, Sherwin C.
245-P Rosales Street, Kaliwa Sta. Ana, Pateros, MM

REYES, Anthony L.
18 JP Rizal St., Bgy Santiago, Baras, Rizal

RESTOR, Dalisay A.
Blk 28 Lot 6, Exodus Ville, Angono, Rizal

SAGUN, Josephine S.
2449 Fidel Street, Gagalangin Tondo, Mla.

SAN JUAN, Amparao N.
4420 Dallas Street, Bangkal, Makati City

SORIANO, Ma. Helen R.
32 Gen. San Miguel Street, Sangandaan, Caloocan City

TINGZON, Roel S.
1604 Burbank Street, Brookside Hills Subd., Cainta, Rizal

TORNEROS, Mary Ann J.
71 Masagana Street, Pateros, MM

TUAZON, Julius Earvin G.
1348 San Antonio Street, Paco, Manila

TUMANENG, MaryAnn T.
5118 Col. Santos St., South Cembo, Mkti. City

UY, Minnie G.
1226 Apacible Street, Paco, Manila

VENUS, Ricky A.
c/o GMA-7 Network Center
Edsa corner Timog Avenue, QC

YAO, Christopher Van Lloyd
178 5th Ave., West Grace Park, Cal. City

### 15 WINNERS OF T-SHIRTS

AMADOR, Joan M.
215 E. Quiogue Street, Pateros, Manila

ARTIGA, Amalia
14-B San Juan Street, FB Harrison, Pasay City

DEL ROSARIO, Milagros M.
8 Mabmiman Street, Taytay, Rizal

DEMILLO, Elisa Q.
35 Crisill Compound, Crisbill Subdivision, Ginong Bayan-1, San Mateo, Rizal

DE VERA, Ferdinand Sr.
1515 S. De Guzman St., Malibay, Pasay City

DISTOR, Christopher
Bldg 28 Unit 322 SMDRP-(BHA), Vitas Tondo, Manila

ESCOLANO, Maybelene C.
23 Edulo Masagana St., Sta. Ana, Pateros, Ma.

LAGOS, Violeta S.
105 Bellian Street, Malanday, Marikina City

MILLORA, Krizia May R.
89 Alley I, Project 6, Quezon City

NOLASCO, Noel H.
6 Kamuning Road, Quezon City

UMALI, Alberto Uy
829 Asuncion Street, Binondo, Manila

VASQUEZ, Francisco A.
2538 Westbank Road, Floodway, Rosario, Pasig City

VILLARIN, Ricardo P. Jr.
1110-B Dagonoy Street, Singalong, Manila

VINGONA, Eduardo
7 P. Zamora St., Jesus Dela Peña, Marikina City

YEE, Ansley B.
2319 Granate St., Unit 2, San Andres, Manila

### 15 WINNERS OF CAPS

BINAY, Samantha Faye Carrie S.J.
4420 Dallas Street, Bangkal, Makati City

CALCON, Mary Grace
Unit 530 Cityland 8, Buendia, Makati

GALMESA, Wilfred L.
109 P. Ducos Street, Quiapo, Manila

GARCES, Leomar
964 Algeciras Street, Sampaloc

HONES, Elena
B21 Cafaro Street, Damayon, San Juan, Taytay, Rizal

JAROMAY, Margareth T.
17 Lopez Jaena St., San Jose, Pasig City

LUCES, Norissa N.
456 MRR Street, Manggahan, Pasig City

RACHO, Diana M.
5 Masbate Street, West Ave, QC

RESPECIO, Remedios S.
3 Rd. 5 NDH, Bo. Tanyag, Taguig, MM

RESTOR, Hector A.
Blk 28 Lot 6, Exodus Ville, Angono, Rizal

SY, Melissa B.
341 Maginoo Street, Mag. Village, Tondo, Mla.

TABILOG, Carolina
26 Road I, North Daang Hari, Bagong Tanyag, Taguig City

TERCERO, Edwin D.
Blk 5 Lot 395, Bagong Silang, Sucat, Muntinlupa City

VILLAFRANCA, Ma. Cristina
1111 Tanay Street, Rizal Village, Makati City

WALTER, Edianon
1057 AP Reyes, Bgy Olympia, Makati City

### 15 WINNERS OF SUNVISORS

ALBERTO, Editha G.
P-3D Blk 30 Lot 21, Kaunlaran Vil., Cal. City

BERNEDO, Donna Belle
1890 Bo. Kapampangan, Santa Ana, Manila

COLLE, Joanne
282-B Darsalan Street, Mandaluyong City

DE HONOR, Dolores D.
26-G Oliveros Drive Balintawak, QC

DELA CRUZ, Grace
62-A Masagana Street, Sta. Ana, Pateros, Ma.

ECO CRUZ, Ma. Teresa A.
548 San Juan Street, FB Harrison, Pasay City

ESCOBAÑEZ, Nemia O.
2545 F. Huertas Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila

FULLERO, Jacquelyn E.
Rd 2 Ext 9 NDH, Taguig, Manila

HERMOSA, Kathleen Ivy
15 O. De Guzman St., Olandes, Marikina City

MALLARI, Ricardo C.
3419-B J. Luklaan St., Bo. Obrero, Tondo, Mla.

MARCO, Helen E.
2552 Tejeron Street, Sta. Ana, Manila

RIVERA, Glaidel Ara
173 Masagana Street, Pateros, Manila

RONA, Angelo B.
Blk 22 Lot 12, Aster Street, Antipolo Hills Subdivision, Antipolo City

SANTOS, Joel L.
15 San Mateo DB-1, San Mateo, Rizal

TABAYAG, Hilario
120 A Luna Street, Project 4, QC

### 15 WINNERS OF WRISTBANDS

AFRICA, Teodulo A.
Sierra Madre Street, Grp. II, Payatas B., QC

AQUINO, Mark Joseph B.
027-D Genoveva Street, Villareal, Bgy Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City

ARROBANG, Roger
Star Ville, Japan Street, Purok 8, Sta Ana, Taytay, Rizal

DELA CRUZ, Apolonio
36-B Sanyo Road, Bagbag, Novaliches, QC

DE LEON, Aurea M.
292 Ecols Street, Bgy Commonwealth, QC

DE VERA, Mike B.
Area 6, Sitio Ulep, Sto. Niño, Parañaque City

DUMO, Roland L.
25-G Araneta Avenue, Tatalon, QC

ESTO, Arlene N.
Fran. Ville II, Camarin, Caloocan City

FABRE, Rufo A.
285 Tulahan Rd., Sta. Quiteria, Cal. City

GUILLARTE, Agapita R.
11 Silangan St., Barangka Drive, Mand. City

JAMERLAN, Reiner J. Cruz
342 Maginoo Street, Tondo, Manila

LIM, John
315 Gudoia Street, Balut, Tondo, Manila

MONTALBAN, Mancar A.
5445 NPC Dampa Compound, Bagbaguin, Caloocan City

RACHO, Eric Angelo M.
5 Masbate Street, West Avenue, QC

RONQUILLO, Man Rhyan
252 4th West Crame, San Juan, MM

### 15 WINNERS OF BANDANNAS

CARBA, Orlando A. Jr.
A-22 Nie Road, Bgy Payatas, QC

CUTAMOVA, Ma. Luz
2454 Paras Bldg. Blumentritt, Sta. Cruz

DAEN, Riverlina S.
234-B Reparo Street, Baesa, Caloocan City

DE DIOS, Rodolfo S.
Blk 9 Lot 9, Opal Street, San Jose Rodriguez, Montalban, Rizal

DOMINGO, Rosana P.
26-G Oliveros Drive, Balintawak, QC

FONTANILLA, Sarah
14-B Masagana Street, Bgy Santa Ana, Pateros, Metro Manila

GALMESA, Conchita V.
109 P. Ducos Street, Quiapo, Manila

MORAL, Anecito
150 IBP Road, Bgy Commonwealth, QC

PEDRAGOSA, Ramon Jr.
352 Camia St., PZBG Compd., BIR Road, Diliman QC

PENABELLA, Jane
4 Ivory Street Ext., Bernardino Compound, Meralco Village, Taytay, Rizal

PEREZ, Barbara S.
Blk 92 Lot 16 Ph 3 Package 3, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City

ROBISO, Remy
11 Silangan St., Barangka Drive, Mand. City

SAMPOLEO, Charito
87 Industrial Potrero, Malabon City

VARGAS, Amelia A.
1042-E Solis, Tondo, Manila

VILLALUNA, Rogelio A.
103 Tenement Bldg., Western Bicutan, Taguig

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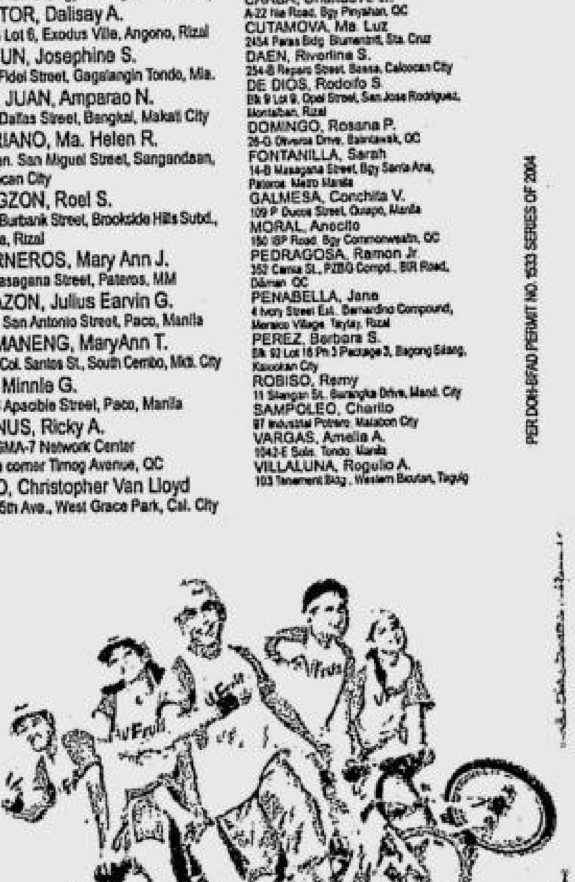

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# *Baguio air quality better, say execs*

**By Desiree Caluza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—Residents here can now breathe easier as the air quality in the city's business district has improved, environment officials said.

From a reading of 194 microgram per cubic meter (ug/m3) of total suspended particulates (TSP) in the first quarter this year, Baguio's downtown area registered a 184 ug/m3 of TSP reading in the second quarter, said Rolando Reyes, chief of the air quality division of the Environmental Management Bureau.

Reyes said in the last quarter of 2004, their monitoring showed that the TSP had reached 229 ug/m3. The allowable limit of TSP is 230 ug/m3, he said.

Reyes said the biggest contributors to air pollution in the city are vehicle fumes.

"We are still targeting [a reading of] at least below 80 ug/m3 so we will have a good quality of air. But we still have a long way to go," Reyes told reporters in a forum here on Wednesday.

Reyes said the rainy season has contributed to the improvement of the air quality in the city. By December, he said the EMB is expecting the TSP to drop and stabilize at 185 ug/m3.

Reyes said environment officials were hopeful that Baguio would achieve the ideal air quality level if the government would impound smoke belching vehicles.

Alfredo Mondiguing, regional director of Department of Transportation and Communications, said his agency lacks the personnel to monitor and arrest smoke belchers.

DOTC records showed that more than 20,000 vehicles are registered in the city.

# Gov presses panic button on shortage of doctors

**By Romy G. Amarado**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Oriental Negros Gov. George P. Arnaiz said that time would come when they would no longer accept patients from other provinces if the number of doctors at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH) would continue to dwindle.

Arnaiz issued the statement yesterday after six doctors left NOPH in different dates and flew to America to work as nurses, beginning late last year.

The governor said that currently, NOPH accepts patients from the nearby towns of Zamboanga, Siquijor, Cebu and Negros Occidental "because we cannot refuse them."

"But if we will have only very few doctors left, we have no choice but prioritize patients from our province," Arnaiz added.

Arnaiz said NOPH is accommodating more than 300 patients, at any given time, with only 43 doctors attending to all of them. Of the number of patients, about 40 are from outside of Oriental Negros.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Ely Villapando earlier said NOPH, a 250-bed hospital, needs at least 72 doctors.

But he said while the number of patients grew, the number of doctors is dwindling because government doctors who turned nurses are now leaving to work abroad, where the salary is tremendously high.

He said of the 43 NOPH physicians, only seven of them did not take up nursing.

"The national government should do something about it because the LGU (local government unit) cannot increase the salary of its doctors because of budgetary limitation imposed by the DBM (Department of Budget and Management)," Arnaiz said.

# Ex-hostage helps plead for life of OFW in Saudi

GUAGUA, Pampanga—On the occasion of Filipino Migrants' Day on Tuesday, truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who has resumed a normal life after he was freed by his Iraqi captors last year, has come to the aid of an overseas Filipino worker facing death in Saudi Arabia.

De la Cruz, 46, and his wife Arsenia conveyed words of hope to Reynaldo Cortez through text messages to Cortez's wife, Melody.

Cortez was convicted of killing a Pakistani taxi driver in Saudi Arabia in 2002.

De la Cruz, whose life of poverty and the 14-day ordeal in the hands of his Iraqi captors prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to call him the "Filipino Every Man," said he told Cortez "not to lose hope, rely mainly on the mercy of God and trust in the efforts of the President and the government [to reverse the death sentence]."

Arsenia said she told Melody to "go on a one-on-one with God."

The De la Cruz couple said that was how they coped with their own crisis in July last year.

"Our circumstances are different but when I saw Cortez, his wife and their children on television, I saw myself, my wife and my kids. I cried out of pity," De la Cruz, speaking in Kapampangan, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

## Appeal

"The President should really help [Cortez]," he said.

Cortez's jail term of 10 years was upgraded to a death sentence on May 30 after the family of the Pakistani taxi driver refused Cortez's offer of blood money.

Cortez said he killed the driver as an act of self-defense as the man tried to rape him.

De la Cruz, who worked as a truck driver in Saudi Arabia for nine years, said Cortez's family should also understand that it was part of the Islamic culture to demand blood money.

What can be done, he said, was to appeal for reconsideration from the family and the Riyadh Grand Court.

## Patience

The Cortez couple, De la Cruz said, should not run out of patience because the Arroyo administration was doing all it can to save Reynaldo.

In Barangay San Pablo where the Cortez family lives, prayer vigils have been held by their relatives, neighbors and sympathizers since Monday.

Also on Tuesday, Migrante International, a group of militant migrant workers and their families, began the global action seeking support for Cortez and eight other OFWs on death row in Saudi Arabia.

Maita Santiago, Migrante secretary general, urged Ms Arroyo to exert "diplomatic intervention" by urging Pakistani President Pervez Musharaff to "help convince the family of the driver to pardon and release [Cortez]."

*Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Suspected cyanide dealers arrested

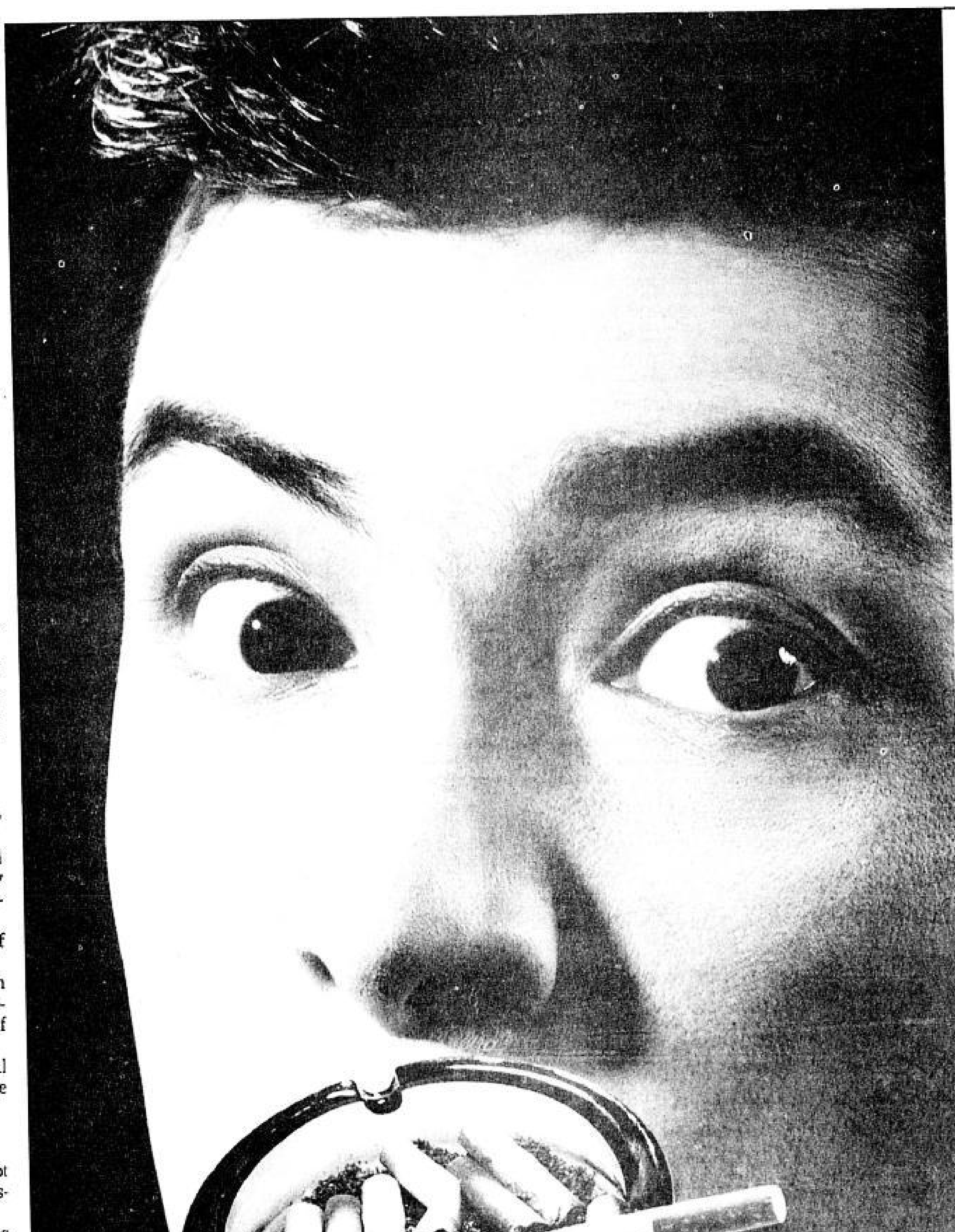
A RAIDING team composed of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Palawan and the Puerto Princesa City government's Bantay Dagat and Kilos Agad Action Center (KAAC) apprehended Monday a couple suspected to be dealers of sodium cyanide in Palawan.

Arrested in Barangay Tagburos in Puerto Princesa for possession of 164 tablets of sodium cyanide weighing about 3 kilograms were Edgar Pillarin Gutierrez and wife Felma Cariño-Gutierrez.

In a press statement, Mayor Edward Hagedorn said he praises the members of the apprehending team headed by Elmer Perez Guevarra of the CIDG and composed of Efren Atilano and Rodrigo Lanuza of KAAC, and Ian Marcelo of Bantay Dagat.

"Among the illegal methods of fishing, the one that uses cyanide is the most pernicious and the most difficult to control," Hagedorn's statement said.

"Unlike dynamite or trawl fishing, cyanide fishing is a very silent operation and is usually done underwater. And because of the great demand for live fish and its relatively high price in the market, cyanide fishing has become rampant in Palawan."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Introducing the breakthrough OraCare Mouthrinse! Unlike mouthwashes with alcohol, it has Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide that's proven safe in getting rid of odor-causing bacteria even in hard-to-reach places of the mouth.
So for your daily oral care, get the refreshing confidence of OraCare Mouthrinse!

**New OraCare Mouthrinse: A Breakthrough in Oral Care**

We all know that brushing your teeth is a vital part of your hygiene regimen every day. But while brushing helps keep the teeth clean and healthy, it's not enough to get rid of bacteria lingering in other parts of the mouth.

And if you don't like gargling with mouthwash because of its burning sensation, preferring to risk having bad breath over the sting mouthwashes bring, here's a refreshing new product that's perfect for you.

New OraCare Mouthrinse, a breakthrough in oral care! Now you don't need to be silenced by foul odors! Because OraCare is the first mouthrinse with no alcohol content – it's safe and gentle on the delicate tissues lining the oral cavity. Only OraCare has the breakthrough active ingredient known as Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide – an oral antibacterial agent that gently cleans minus the stinging sensation. It goes to work immediately upon contact with bacteria in the mouth and through its natural oxidation process, it releases oxygen that breaks down the cell wall of bacteria and eliminates odor-causing volatile sulfur compounds.

What's more, OraCare gently deep cleanses even in hard-to-reach areas, reducing plaque build-up and stops odor-causing bacteria from spreading. Unlike other alcohol-based mouthwashes, OraCare Mouthrinse contains purified water, Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide and peppermint flavor for an effective yet soothing gargling experience.

Now, you can say hello to a breath of real freshness with new OraCare Mouthrinse. Make it your daily oral care!

*Here are some Frequently Asked Questions on OraCare and Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide:*

**What makes OraCare a breakthrough product?**
OraCare is the first locally manufactured mouthwash product to use Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide as its active ingredient. While this ingredient is already used and accepted in the United States and other parts of the world due to its safety and effectiveness, Pascual Laboratories is the first pharmaceutical company to make this ingredient locally available and affordable.

**What is Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide?**
Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide (ClO2) was discovered as an oxidizing agent which results in several beneficial actions such as destroying micro-organism and eliminating odors. It was found to be very effective in keeping the mouth extremely clean. The utilization of Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide (ClO2) to safely oxidize the source of impurities generated in the mouth provides a pure and clean result.

**What benefits and effects can be expected from Stabilized Chlorine Dioxide?**
Among others, it gets rid of odor-causing bacteria even in hard-to-reach places of the mouth like under the tongue, walls of the mouth and the back of the mouth. It oxidizes single-celled organisms such as bacteria, germs, viruses, fungi, spores, yeast, mold and mildew. It eliminates all odors by oxidizing the sulfur bonds. Moreover, while it is effective, stabilized ClO2 has no harmful properties and is so safe that the US Environment Protection Agency rates its toxicity level the same as water.

**For feedback and suggestions,**
**e-mail: oracare@pascuallab.com**
**or text: 0920-9618126.**

**ORAL CARE UPDATE**
Finally, a mouthrinse that cleans and freshens hard-to-reach places of the mouth!

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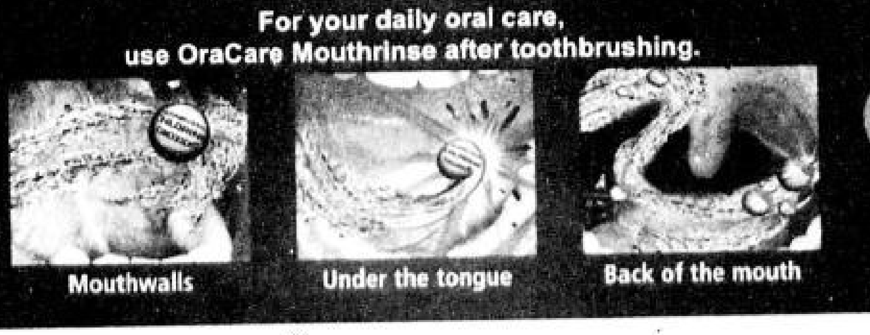

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## An Open Letter to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

# CARP LANDS OR KILLING FIELDS?

THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP), WHICH TURNS 17 TODAY, is a social justice program that requires the unconditional commitment and decisiveness of the country's leaders to bring about development and peace to millions of landless tillers like us.

You promised to carry the torch of your father President Diosdado Macapagal in liberating farmers from poverty and injustice when you took over in 2001. Your role is crucial since you are left the task of implementing CARP in its most difficult stage, in vast private agricultural lands where resistance of few but influential landlords remain strong. Private lands are the heart of land reform, since it is here where the highest incidence of injustice against farmers occurs.

Four (4) years and four (4) Agrarian Reform Secretaries under your watch later, however, the road to CARP has become more perilous for us to tread. As your administration, particularly your handpicked Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa, are more concerned with being on the good side of the landlords, many of our loved ones have been killed, wounded, charged in lower courts, jailed, rendered homeless, and driven to deeper poverty and hunger in defense of our only hope to improve our lives – a piece of land from which we would feed our families, send our children to school, and increase our income.

You, the daughter of the country's Father of Land Reform, have made the last 4 years of CARP the bloodiest due to your reluctance to exercise your power in our favor. Cruelty from the landlords, aggravated by your inaction, has become part of our daily lives.

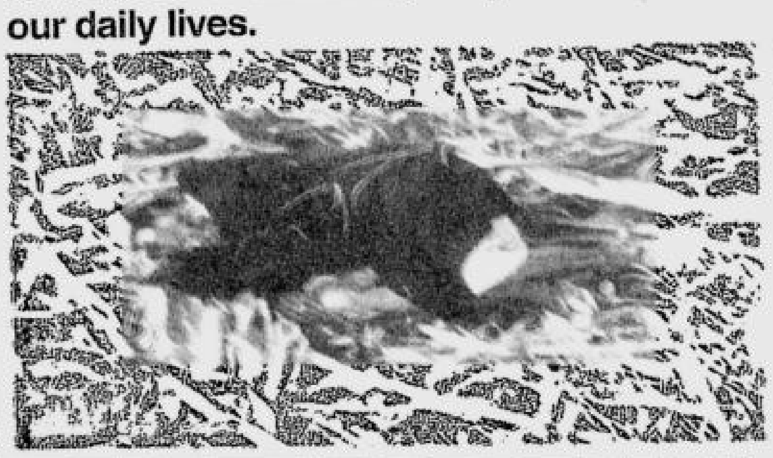


Photo too gruesome for publication.
The PDI Editorial Board

**Killed in their own lands: farmers Teresa Mameng (top photo) and Delia De Castro (lower photo).**

FROM JANUARY 2001 TO PRESENT IN TASK FORCE MAPALAD (TFM) communities alone, violence led to senseless deaths of unarmed agrarian reform beneficiaries right in their own lands, such as:

**RONILO VASQUEZ,** 25, shot to death on 10 February 2001 by goons of landlord Farley Gustilo at the 189-hectare Hacienda Cambuktot in Barangay Mansalanao, La Castellana, Negros Occidental as he and his brothers were harvesting;

**INDAK ESPARTERO,** 40, shot to death on 3 May 2003 by personnel of landlord Miguel J. Lacson at the 316-hectare Hacienda San Benito in Barangay Crossing Magallon, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental as he and other farmers were trying to claim their lands that Lacson deprived them of since 1999;

**TERESA MAMENG,** 60, shot in the chest on 3 September 2004 by the goons of landlord Mario Villanueva in a late-night attack against farmers and their children at the 132-hectare Hacienda Conchita Villanueva in Barangay Sag-ang, La Castellana, Negros Occidental;

**WINIFREDO MATAHUM,** 31, shot to death on 15 January 2005 by security guards of landlord Oscar Anglo Jr. at the 188-hectare Hacienda San Martin in Barangay Hacienda Fe, Escalante City, Negros Occidental;

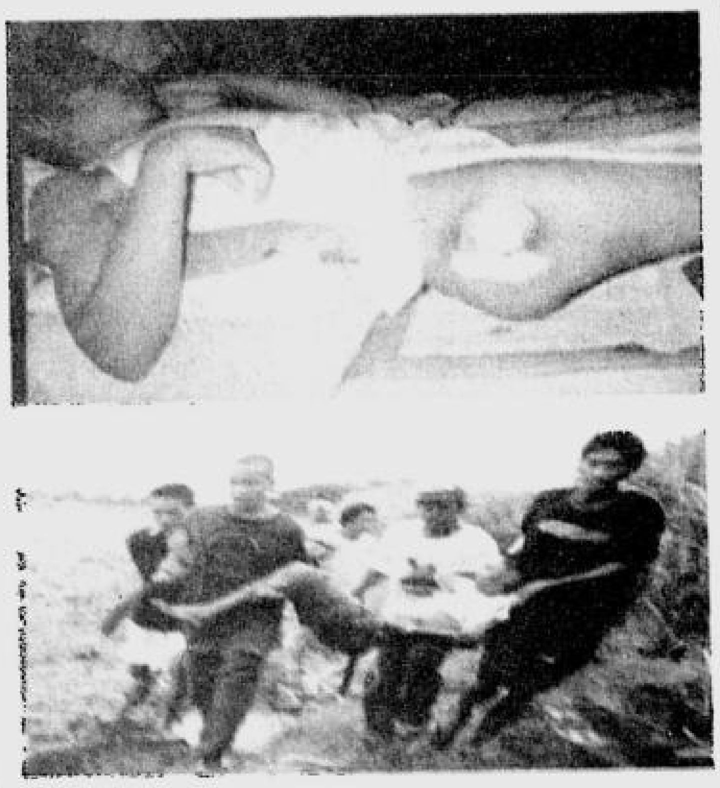
**DELIA DE CASTRO,** 52, shot in the head on 13 May 2005 in front of her home in Sitio Wason, Barangay Batobato, San Isidro, Davao Oriental. Although police have yet to identify the perpetrators, we strongly believe De Castro was murdered to weaken her group's claims to the 23-hectare Catada Estate amidst the former landowners' ploys to evade CARP.

THOSE WHO SURVIVED ASSAULTS OF THE LANDLORDS' GOONS and security guards, meanwhile, are marred for life:

**RONITO BOLTRON,** 25, shot on his spine by goons and security guards of landlord Antonio Lopez and farm manager Joseph Lacson on 5 January 2003 while in his farm with other farmers at the 103-hectare Hacienda Mulawin in Barangay Poblacion Uno, Sagay City, Negros Occidental. He belongs to the living dead now, since the assault left him paralyzed from the waist down. The bullet remains in his spine since his family could not afford the surgery required.

**RUBEN CANOY JR.,** 35, shot in the head by security guards of the Lizares-Lopez Development Corporation, former owner of the 97-hectare Hacienda Sto. Rosario in Barangay Plaridel, Sagay City, Negros Occidental while on his way home. His mental condition has become unstable since then.

**EDGARDO CAUNTOY,** 39, shot in his stomach by security guards of landlords Remedios and Joebert Cuaycong and lessee Narciso Tam on 29 December 2004 while he and 46 other farmers were cultivating their farm at the 35-hectare Hacienda Minacalao in Barangay Rizal, Sagay City, Negros Occidental. He needs a major surgery that his family could not afford to be completely healed.



**Survivors, but marred for life: Ronito Boltron (top photo and Edgardo Cauntoy (lower photo).**

Around 128 TFM agrarian reform beneficiaries and one media practitioner have been wounded, 25 farming families evicted from their homes, 30 illegally arrested, 25 imprisoned and 25 verbally intimidated, farms and homes of 54 agrarian reform beneficiaries were either burned, destroyed, or bombed.

In April 2005, goons of landlord Roberto Cuenca whom passed themselves off as TFM members harassed ten (10) Negros Occidental journalists and crew of the Probe Team covering farmers' activities in La Castellana, Negros Occidental. Our community organizers and advocates continue to receive death threats from the landlords' camps.

The police did little to arrest and charge the crime perpetrators, usually the private army or security guards of landlords. Most often, police doing their jobs to protect the farmers are immediately relieved while those who blatantly allow landlords to wreak havoc remain in their posts.

In 49 CARP landholdings, 76 criminal and civil cases were filed against 787 agrarian reform beneficiaries. Despite prohibition in the agrarian reform law, lower court judges entertained these complaints from landlords that are mere tactics to obstruct CARP.

There will be no genuine peace and development if you and your chosen implementers of social justice reforms continue to forsake your State obligation to poor and landless farmers. More lives would be lost as you abandon us in our fight for justice that you should have stood for.

**DO NOT LET THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT AND UNARMED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES CONTINUE TO SPILL DUE TO DEFIANT LANDLORDS' DESPERATION, MADE EVEN STRONGER UNDER YOUR WING. A SOCIAL VOLCANO IS IN DANGER OF ERRUPTING AS YOU ALLOW OUR LANDS TURN INTO KILLING FIELDS.**

We would not let, however, the martyrdom of our deceased fellow farmers to go to naught. In their death, we would further strengthen our ranks to defend the program towards equity and justice. In their priceless sufferings, we would firmly assert our rights so that our children would grow in peace, freedom and abundance.

**TASK FORCE MAPALAD**

*NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FARMERS, FARM WORKERS AND INDIVIDUAL ADVOCATES*
CAGAYAN VALLEY * NUEVA ECIJA * BATANGAS * ORIENTAL MINDORO * NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
* NEGROS ORIENTAL * ILOILO * DAVAO ORIENTAL

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# Nene tells GMA: Resign

From page A1

tary and police to the Constitution, and added: "I expect our citizens to maintain their cool heads to keep the democracy that they have fought hard to protect."

She appealed to the people "not to allow themselves to be used by those who want to return to power after they have been ousted, or who want to seize power and run the government through undemocratic means."

De Castro said he would not resign because he had a mandate from the people.

"Why hold a snap election when there is no vacancy? I will not resign and have no intention to resign," he told the INQUIRER.

He also said he did not believe that the President should resign because there was no concrete evidence linking her to any misconduct or controversy.

## 72 hours

Malacañang was rife with rumors that the government was bracing for a critical 72-hour period beginning yesterday and culminating with Saturday's "national day of mourning" rally by religious and militant groups.

A Palace insider said intelligence officials had gotten wind of a takeover plot on Saturday.

The source said the administration had taken precautionary measures to avert the supposed plot, including doing the rounds of military camps for discreet loyalty checks and select media outlets to emphasize how critical the 72-hour period was to the survival of the government.

At a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that the administration was in control.

He said the opposition was "dreaming" if it thought Ms Arroyo would step down.

"I believe that the men and women of the President support her," he said.

Allies of the administration scrambled to make light of Pimentel's call for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"It is expected of the opposition to claim that the President has lost her credibility," Drilon said in a phone interview. "It's an opinion that is not shared by the critical mass of the people. The President has continued credibility to govern this country."

Drilon also said that Pimentel's call was "expected in a politically charged situation," and that "the sufficiency or insufficiency of testimonies [on the jueteng inquiry] is beside the point."

Warning that "the next few days [were] difficult moments for our country and people," Speaker Jose de Venecia called for a "united front" of Malacañang allies in the Senate and the House to "strengthen constitutional democracy."

He said all political parties, especially in the House, should issue "a ringing condemnation of any attempt to bring about the fall of the government and put an end to constitutional democracy in the country."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Ms Arroyo could not be held liable for the jueteng scandal and could not be "punished for the crimes of others."

"Assuming, *arguendo*, that the President's family is on the take, this does not necessarily impact [on her] integrity. Until it can be shown by credible evidence that she had knowledge and consent, her family's wrongdoing cannot be attributed to her," Santiago said in a statement.

## A la Estrada

She called for sobriety, saying: "Let us not be too precipitate because we might create an opportunity for the enemies of democracy to seize power contrary to our Constitution and the rule of law."

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said that "at the rate things [were] going," it was "possible" that Ms Arroyo would go the way of her disgraced predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

Speaking in a press conference at his diocesan chancery, the bishop observed that Estrada's fall was triggered by allegations that he and his family had received jueteng payoffs.

But Iñiguez clarified that he was not supporting a "people power" revolt against the President.

In a statement, he and Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias said they still recognized Ms Arroyo as "the duly constituted political leader of the country."

"We are alarmed by the increasing talk of destabilization ...," they said. "We believe this is the last thing that our country needs, especially now that we are in this precarious situation from which we desire to ... get out."

## People power

Along with Bishop Emeritus Julio Xavier Labayen, Iñiguez and Tobias serve as senior advisers to the multisectoral Kilusan ng Makabansang Ekonomiya, which will lead tomorrow's "national day of mourning" prayer rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio.

Iñiguez downplayed the idea of another popular revolt, saying "this transition of government has not contributed to the betterment of the country."

"People power by itself is not a constitutional way of changing the government," he said.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I think [it was made to] appear legal" to push the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada out of office and legitimize the coming to power of Corazon Aquino in Feburary 1986 and Ms Arroyo in January 2001, he said.

In both instances, he said, the Catholic Church supported the uprising only to oust the incumbent president, but not "as a way to change the government."

Iñiguez said the Church would withdraw its support from a president if the latter began "acting against the common good" and started violating human rights.

In the meantime, he said, he and his group were giving Ms Arroyo a chance to rethink her economic policies and work her way out of the mess.

"She should be true enough, humble enough, and human enough to look at the allegations and face them squarely," he said.

The prelate urged the public not to rush to judge the Arroyo congressmen. "All these are just allegations," he said.

But he advised Ms Arroyo to "distance" herself from her husband and son, saying the allegations could soon take their toll on her.

## Lost moral ascendancy

Pimentel said another reason Ms Arroyo should quit was that she had exhausted "whatever moral ascendancy" she had since she succeeded Estrada.

"With a credibility rating several notches below zero, with corruption snapping at her heels, and with a clearly questionable electoral mandate, the President no longer has a right to claim that she has the integrity or the moral ascendancy to continue ... as President," he said.

He also said the the corruption in the bureaucracy, rampant criminality, sagging economy, and the high prices of basic goods and utilities showed that she was "no longer in control."

Further, Pimentel said, Ms Arroyo had been abandoned by her "Edsa II" allies: "A quick glance at the pictures of her most recent visitors at the Palace shows that some of her allies who really count are no longer there."

He said resignation was the "most expedient and constitutional way" for Ms Arroyo to "get out of the mess she has put herself and the country in."

Opposition Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Jamby Madrigal echoed Pimentel's view.

Osmeña said that the President should have resigned "long ago" and that corruption had been "going on for a long time."

"The call to resign is the constitutional way, so that we can avoid another Edsa, another revolution, another coup, another bloodbath. If they feel for the people, they should resign," Madrigal said in an interview. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana, Tarra V. Quismundo and Christine O. Avendaño*

# *Soldiers in Metro Manila placed on red alert*

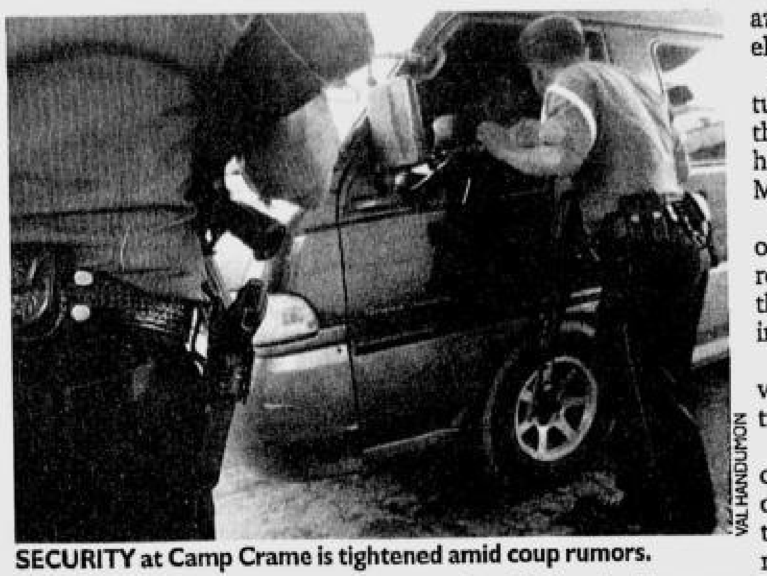
THE ARMED Forces has put its 4,000 troops in Metro Manila on red alert in anticipation of protest rallies on Independence Day.

The red alert was declared at 10 p.m. Wednesday and will remain in effect until further notice, Capt. Ramon Zagala, spokesperson of the AFP National Capital Region Command, said yesterday.

Zagala said the NCR command had "received a direction from higher headquarters, from the chief of staff [Gen. Efren Abu], to go on red alert" because of "the internal security threats in connection with the 107th Independence Day celebration."

He said they had "received reports that people will conduct rallies and demonstrations."

A battalion-size civil disturbance management unit is now on standby, Zagala said.



VAL HANDUMON

**SECURITY** at Camp Crame is tightened amid coup rumors.

The military and police brass had earlier said recruitment was going on in the ranks for yet another destabilization plot against the government. But they were quick to add that the efforts had not been successful.

Zagala said there had been no effort to recruit soldiers in Metro Manila "so far."

"What is definite is that we will protect the seat of government and its institutions. We will stick to the chain of command and respect the duly constituted elected officials," he said.

Police Director General Arturo Lomibao continued to "feel the sentiments" of his officers, hopping from the Visayas to Mindanao in two days.

In the Caraga region, Lomibao ordered officers to immediately report any attempt to recruit them for destabilization, "to nip it in the bud."

He also urged them to be watchful: "Let us open our eyes to prevent this from escalating."

Suggesting that junior officers might be restless, Lomibao directed commanders to go "to the field and feel their sentiments."

The other day, the PNP chief was in Leyte, where he warned the troops against "peddlers of destabilization" and appealed to them to be faithful to the government. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto*

# Stocks, peso tumble amid political tension

From page A1

Traders said there was growing nervousness that a crescendo of graft allegations against Ms Arroyo, her husband, son and brother-in-law could destabilize her administration. Rumors of coup plots and calls for Ms Arroyo to resign have also dampened sentiment.

"There's a perception that the political situation is worsening and therefore investors are, as a normal reaction, more defensive now," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management Phils., one of the country's largest fund managers.

"They are reducing their exposure in the market and trying to raise cash and liquidity, so that in case the political situation worsens further, they'd be more or less prepared," Garcia said.

"When these things happen, you just have to brace yourselves for further volatility," he added.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index, a barometer of business confidence, ended down 55.04 points, or 2.8 percent, at 1,898.24. Since Tuesday, the index has fallen 7.4 percent.

Analysts, however, said foreign investors proved more resilient, preferring to take a long-term view of the market and not allowing the political noise to get in the way.

"Market fundamentals have not changed, that's why foreign funds are still there. But the political climate is clouding the market," said PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro.

The Philippine stock market had been the best performer in Southeast Asia earlier this year, with the main index rising to a high of 2,172 in mid-March on optimism that fiscal reforms to cut the government's hefty budget deficit would encourage investment.

The peso dropped to a three-month low of 54.95 to the US dollar, compared to its closing level of 54.67 on Wednesday and 54.51 on Tuesday. Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System was unusually heavy at $522.1 million.

"Looks like it's getting uglier," said a chief trader at a Manila bank, who did not want to be identified because he said the issue was politically sensitive. "Corporates are hedging their requirements earlier on because of the uncertainty it could bring to the presidency."

Rovic de Guzman, chief foreign exchange trader of Union Bank of the Philippines, said the market had suddenly become "very jittery."

"You have [Sen. Aquilino] Pimentel calling on the President and [Vice President Noli] De Castro to resign. From the market's standpoint, it does not look good," De Guzman said.

Following Thursday's decline, the peso lost its place to the South Korean won as Asia's best performer. The peso has gained 2.5 percent since the start of the year.

One trader said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas appeared to be defending the peso by selling dollars at levels around 54.85, but its presence diminished as the selling pressure on the currency increased.

The market's downward spiral began after the release on Monday of what was alleged to be a wiretapped telephone conversation between Ms Arroyo and a Commission on Election official about vote-fixing during last year's presidential election. Ms Arroyo on Thursday denied that she had cheated and said that the opposition's allegations were part of a plot to unseat her.

The disclosure of the alleged wiretapped conversations had come hot on the heels of accusations that members of Ms Arroyo's family had taken kickbacks from illegal gambling.

"Those taped conversations, whether they are fabricated or not, are very serious," said Westlink Global Equities analyst James Lago. "It questions the legitimacy of Arroyo's presidency. So whatever plans the government has now, whether medium- or long-term, can be derailed."

Ms Arroyo's approval ratings have also slumped to a record low for any Philippine leader since 1986, as Filipinos feel the pain of high oil prices and tax increases. The military has gone on maximum alert before the country's Independence Day celebrations on Sunday.

"The bottom line is this creates all sorts of uncertainties and, as an investor, it's something you would rather not deal with," said Oliver Plana, head of sales of Asiasec Equities Inc. "There are a lot of uncertainties because of this political sideshow."

Former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. urged Ms Arroyo "to respond directly to the serious charges of electoral fraud in a forthright manner, and to do all in her power to allow the truth to emerge." *With reports by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Ronnel W. Domingo, INQUIRER wires, Reuters and AP*

# DOJ cracks down on media outlets playing 'GMA tape'

From page A1

outlets for possible violations of the Anti-Wiretapping Act.

Gonzalez yesterday said he had ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to go after media organizations "found to have caused the spread, the playing and the printing of the contents of a tape" of an alleged wiretapped conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official about fixing the vote in the 2004 national elections.

He told a press briefing that he was going to start with Inq7.net, the online edition of the INQUIRER, which reportedly made the tape available to its Internet readers beginning Wednesday.

"I have asked the NBI to check all [media] networks—print, radio, television—to find out [if they are liable]," he said.

The justice secretary said he was starting with Inq7.net, a joint venture between the INQUIRER and the GMA 7 television network, because by the very nature of its medium, it was able to disseminate the contents of the tape more widely.

## Invitations

Gonzalez said he would be inviting the editors and managers of both Inq7.net and GMA 7 to a probe.

"I [have] asked the NBI to conduct a tactical interrogation of all concerned," he said.

Asked why he was focusing on Inq7.net, he said he wanted to be fair in implementing the law.

He said that if he had invited Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to explain himself on Wednesday, then the Inq7.net executives should also be invited.

"There should be equal protection of the law," he said.

On Wednesday, Gonzalez warned that everyone found to be in possession of the controversial audio tape, as well as those broadcasting it or printing its contents, were liable for violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, an offense punishable by up to six years in prison.

"If they persist in doing it after they have been warned, then they are making a continuing offense, subject to arrest by anybody who has personal knowledge if the crime was committed, or is being committed in their presence," he warned.

Gonzalez explained that wiretapping could only be allowed with the permission of the person concerned or by the courts when it involves issues with national security implications.

## Bunye faces probe

The justice secretary said that even Bunye, who first made the tape public, might be liable for violating Republic Act No. 4200, or the Anti-Wiretapping Act of 1963.

"Secretary Bunye is not out of the woods yet. He should be investigated," he said, quickly adding in Bunye's defense, however, the press secretary was not aware that the conversations had been illegally tapped when he brought it out in the open.

The President yesterday denied that she had cheated in last year's election and said the opposition's allegations of fraud were part of a plot to unseat her.

The accusations, first made during the May 2004 elections, surfaced anew this week with the release of the alleged wiretapped conversations.

The release of the tape recordings came as witnesses at an ongoing Senate hearing accused Ms Arroyo's husband, son and brother-in-law of receiving kickbacks from illegal gambling.

Bunye said the tape had been doctored in an attempt to show that the President had cheated in the polls.

The President shot back at the opposition, saying that "instead of accepting defeat and working with the winners and putting the interest of the people ahead of theirs, there are some on the other side who choose to challenge my leadership."

"I will not allow those seeking to topple me to succeed, and I will not allow them to undermine or weaken my ability to govern," she said in a dzRH radio interview.

"I ran under a propoor program, for peace and progress. The people responded and gave me 40 percent of the vote and a one million margin. This large number of votes cannot be obtained by cheating," the President said.

She did not directly comment on the contents of the alleged wiretap but said, "I will not allow this to go unpunished."

## Grounded?

A day after Malacañang announced the replacement of the head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, the military leadership reportedly "grounded" the entire Isafp team based in Metro Manila.

According to Camp Aguinaldo insiders, all intelligence agents who might have been involved in bugging the President had been placed under restriction.

Members of the Military Intelligence Group-21 (MIG-21) were reportedly grounded and their operations suspended. MIG-21 is in charge of the intelligence operations of the AFP National Capital Region Command and has about 120 members.

About a dozen MIG-21 staff members, who are involved in the "technical aspect" of intelligence work, were reportedly ordered restricted inside the Isafp compound at Camp Aguinaldo.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, the AFP public information chief, denied that the unit had been grounded. He said some groups were spreading "disinformation" to keep Quevedo at Isafp.

Camp Aguinaldo sources said Malacañang apparently blamed Isafp for bugging the President's conversations without her knowledge.

On Wednesday, Malacañang said Quevedo would be replaced by Commodore Leonardo Calderon, a senior military aide of the President, before the end of the month.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita did not give any reason for the decision.

## House inquiry

At the House of Representatives, the committees on public information, national defense, public order and security, electoral reform, and information technology will begin hearings on the alleged wiretapped conversations of the President on June 15.

Minority House Leader Francis Escudero said the purpose of the investigation was to find out if the President had cheated in the 2004 elections.

The opposition has claimed that the tape contained conversations between Ms Arroyo and Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano concerning plans to rig the election results.

He said that if the audio tape containing the tapped conversations were proven to be reliable, it would be "the best evidence" of the administration's "complicity and conspiracy to cheat in the last elections."

Even administration lawmakers admitted that the publicity surrounding the taped conversations had "put to doubt the results" of the last elections.

This could be "taken advantage of by the disgruntled segments of our country to further their personal caprices and vile scheme to further destabilize the present administration," said Representatives Marcelino Libanan, Prospero Pichay and Eduardo Veloso in a joint resolution calling for an inquiry.

They warned that the tapping and recording of the President's conversations had "far-reaching implications" that might "endanger national security and other matters of national interest."

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# 155 farmers detained in gov't office siege

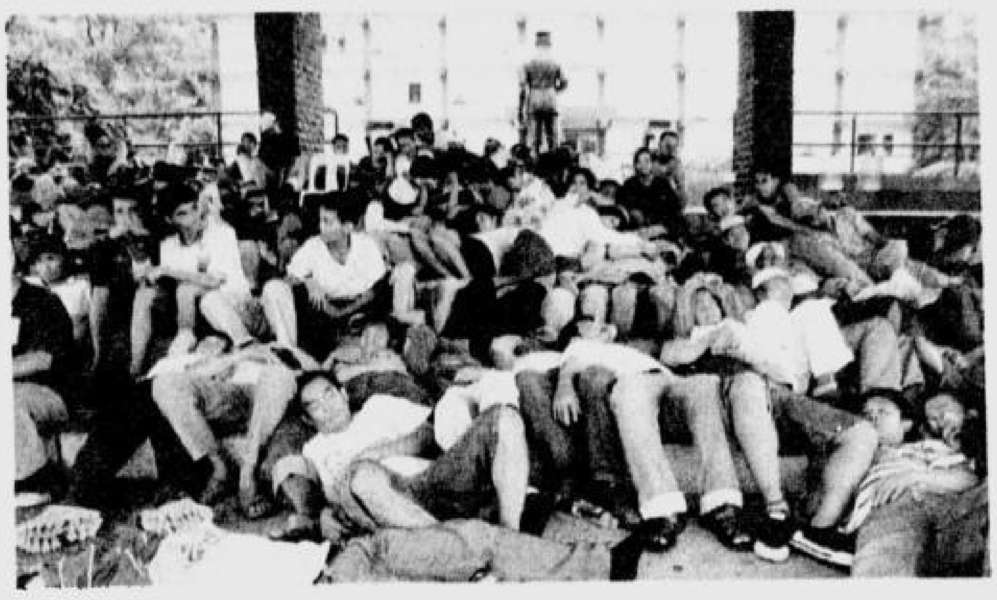
By DJ Yap

ONE HUNDRED fifty-five farmers were rounded up Wednesday night after they barged into the office of Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa in Quezon City and locked themselves in the room for four hours.

The protesters had hoped for a dialogue with the Cabinet member, but forced their way inside when they were told that Villa could not meet them.

At about 9:30 p.m., Special Weapons and Tactics agents finally broke into the locked office and arrested the group.

Central Police District policemen were in a quandary about where to detain the protesters, as the Camp Karingal detention cells could not accommodate the big number.


**OUT IN** the cold, farmers spent the night at Camp Karingal grandstand after they were detained for locking themselves inside Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa's office. JOAN BONDOC

In the end, the farmers spent the night at the grandstand in the compound under the close watch of CPD men. A Quezon City fiscal had recommended that a further investigation be made on charges of disturbance of public order lodged against them.

The farmers, on the other hand, said they would file charges of arbitrary detention against the police and the DLR.

Enrico Cabanit, secretary-general of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasariling Lokal na Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unork) alleged that Villa was reluctant to talk to them about the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The farmers outnumbered the department's 20 on-duty security guards who were not able to prevent them from entering the compound, and later, Villa's office on the fourth floor, said Ernesto Regacho, officer-in-charge of the DLR's intelligence and civil security office.

A guard said some of the farmers had knives and other weapons with them, a charge Cabanit denied. Regacho said he did not know about any such weapons.

DLR employees fled to other rooms after the protesters asked them to get out of Villa's office, said CPD investigator SPO1 Felipe Tumibay in his report.

During the lock-in starting from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Cabanit claimed the police refused to allow food to be delivered to them. The lights and air-conditioning system were also turned off from the outside, he added. A woman protester identified as Patricia Orosca, 63, fainted from hunger and was taken to the hospital, he said.

The farmers were later released before 6 p.m. last night.

# Hero files libel raps vs 'family'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TELEVISION actor Hero Angeles filed libel charges against fellow ABS-CBN talent and "Kapamilya," show biz reporter Cristy Fermin, in the Pasig City Prosecutors' Office for articles he said had affected his professional and personal life.

His elder brother and manager Henry also filed a separate libel complaint against Fermin.

The complaints stemmed from articles Fermin wrote in her columns in at least three tabloids that made references to his personal affairs, among other things. Henry also said work offers for Hero had been few and far in between because of the things Fermin had written.

After winning as the grand questor of the television program "Star Circle Quest," Hero became visible on a few television programs on his home network, ABS-CBN.

Recently, he starred in the movie "Can This Be Love?" with Sandara Park.

## Good friends

He and Fermin used to be good friends, Hero added. Asked what could have turned the relationship sour, Hero said he had no idea.

"I am also wondering why. I can't find an answer," he said.

Fermin writes gossip columns in several tabloids, apart from hosting a weekly gossip show on ABS-CBN.

The network reportedly tried to patch things up between Hero and Fermin.

Hero said there were some conditions he found unacceptable, but would not reveal these to the INQUIRER.

In his complaint, Hero cited at least 14 articles Fermin published in her columns, most of which claimed that Hero's family was getting in the way of his career.

Fermin also hinted Hero had attitude problems and even questioned the young actor's sexuality, Henry said.

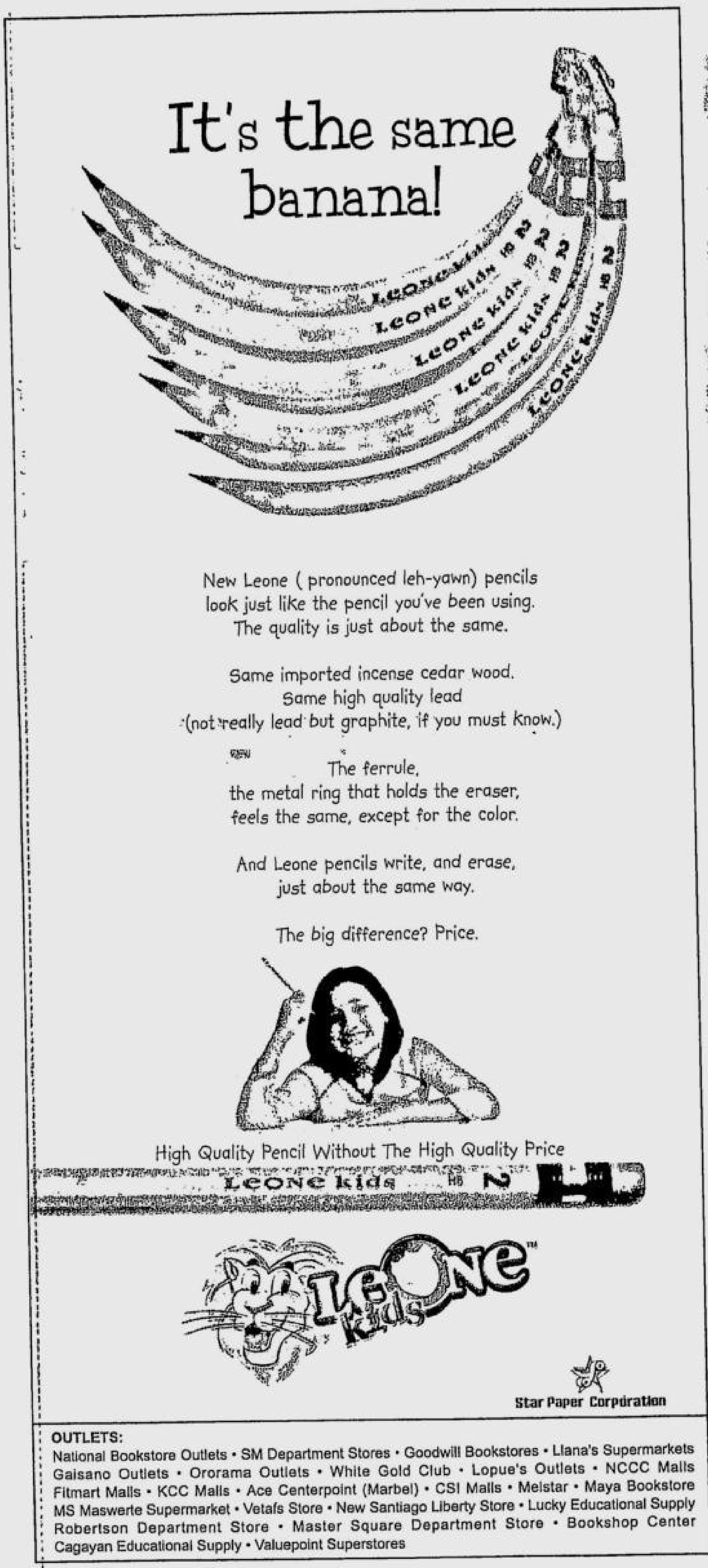
## Anxiety attacks

"The articles ran almost every day for one month," he added.

Hero was scheduled to file the complaint last Monday but he suffered "anxiety attacks," his brother added.

The actor finally showed up yesterday morning with his parents and three siblings.

Lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, who also handles the harassment cases against ABS-CBN talent Willie Revillame, assisted the family in filing the case.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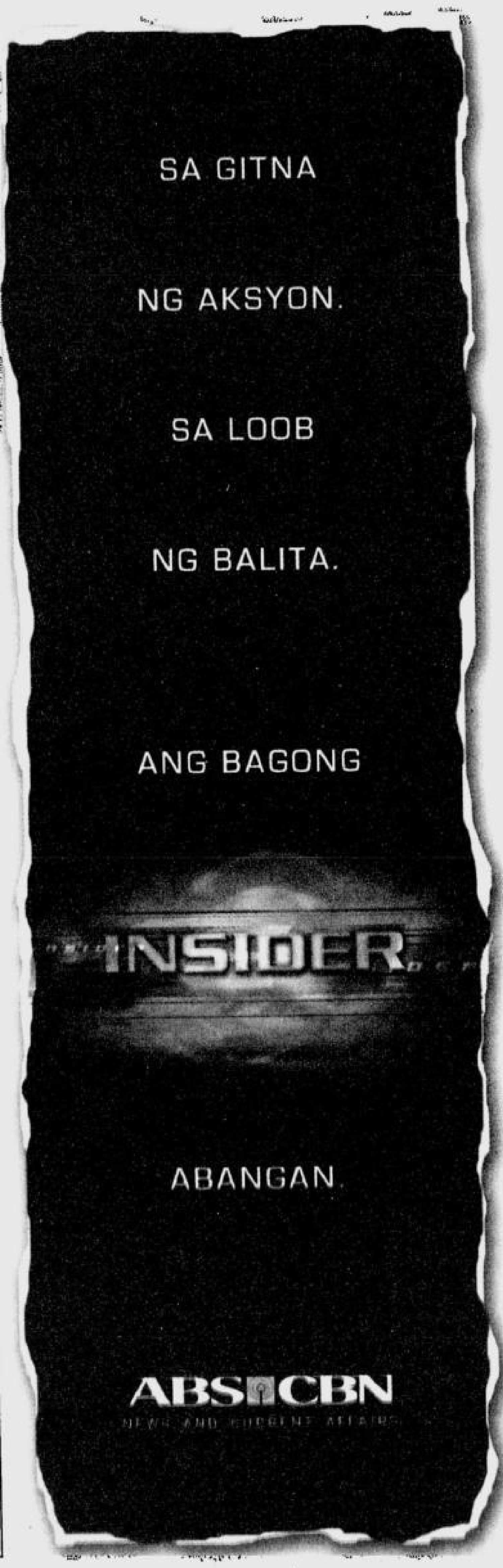
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NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

MEDICard-ABC 5 Signing

Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC 5), one of the country's rising broadcasting companies, recently signed the renewal of its healthcare corporate agreement with MEDICard. Seated (L-R) are MEDICard's Voltaire Viclona (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.) and Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (President) with ABC 5's Regalado Galura (EVP & COO) and Hans Montenegro (HRD Director). Standing (L-R) are MEDICard's Alexander Bombay (Account Exec.), Millani Villafuerte (Mktg. Services Mngr.) and Jonn Marges (Corporate Accounts Mngr.)

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# Cops close to solving bar slay

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

ALMOST there.

Confident police authorities said yesterday that they were gaining headway in the pursuit of the gunman that killed a television director and wounded seven others in a shooting rampage in a Makati City night spot at dawn on Wednesday.

"We are conducting follow-up operations, and possibly before the end of the day we would have our suspect," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Department homicide division, in an interview yesterday.

Reyes said investigators are pursuing the man identified only as "Oliver," who witnesses had said was the one who randomly fired his handgun in the midst of a brawl early Wednesday morning in front of V-Bar in Ayala Center, Makati City.

One of the bullets ended up fatally hitting television director Luis Santiago, 27, and wounding seven others, including a responding policeman.

Police are now tracking down the vehicle the shooter had used to escape the crime scene. The results of the investigation have been favorable, Reyes said.

A witness had taken down the license plate number of the getaway car (HTW-280). Police later found out that there was no record of this license plate being issued.

"We then checked the plate XTW-280, and what appeared was that it was a Toyota Hi-Lux," Reyes said.

The owner's identity is known to police. The registrant's address was traced to a village in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Operatives are now combing the area in search of the vehicle, which police believe would eventually lead them to the shooter.

"For all we know, the suspect may have just borrowed the car from a friend... We're not really sure yet. This is subject to follow-up police operations, and we are checking if there is such a vehicle in the address, and if there is a certain Oliver living there," said the homicide chief.

The alleged shooter, said to be a frequent guest at V-Bar, was described as sporting a close-cropped haircut, with a fair complexion, and was said to be about 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-7.

"We are still going to interview more witnesses, including those who were injured," said Reyes.

Investigators had said Santiago was merely trying to mediate in a brawl outside the bar before closing time.

An argument between two women had sparked the commotion, which ended in the shooting rampage.

# Dump closure OKd

**By Nancy C. Carvajal**

THE NATIONAL Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has passed a resolution ordering the closure of a dump facility in Navotas which had been barricaded by fishermen opposing its operations.

In a two-page motion signed by representatives of various government agencies, the agency also ordered the Philippine Ecology Systems Corp. (Phileco), developer and operator of the 11-hectare garbage facility, to implement the necessary procedures to effect a proper closure as a condition for the approval of their proposal.

The closure was sought by Phileco after the dumping of waste from the cities of Manila and Navotas was stopped by a group of fishermen which put up a blockade at the Binuangan River, preventing barges transporting solid waste from entering the facility.

According to the motion dated June 6, the commission approved the closure plan after giving due course to the issues and concerns raised by groups opposing the continued use of the facility.

A composite multi-partite monitoring team was created, composed of representatives from different agencies and nongovernment organizations like Pamalakaya and Siyap, tasked to conduct regular water quality monitoring within the facility and adjoining water bodies.

If done properly, the closure, according to the commission, could prevent soil erosion. People living in the vicinity would be safe from the deposited solid wastes, the commission said.

The odor that would come from the facility because of the dumping of waste for post-closure would also be controlled, it added.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said the new order should be implemented to ensure the proper closure of the facility because he did not want to be blamed for any future hazards caused by the untimely closure of the facility.

He added that before the order, he had informed Obando, Bulacan, officials of the environmental dangers it could bring to the river.

# Couple nabbed at Naia for illegal recruitment

**By Nikko Dizon**

A PAPUA New Guinea national and his Filipino wife were arrested in an entrapment operation early Wednesday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) in Pasay City after they were accused of illegal recruitment and estafa.

Suspects Victor Sogu and his wife, Emily, are now under the custody of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (Pairtf) Hunter.

They were arrested by Pairtf agents at the Naia departure curbside after receiving P10,000 each from four of their recruits who had lodged complaints before the task force, according to Pairtf case investigator Virgilio Nanato.

Nanato said the suspects denied the complaints filed against them.

He said the Sogus allegedly lured their victims through their Orepal Community Development Foundation, with an office in Green Park, Caloocan City.

The foundation, however, was not licensed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, according to Pairtf.

The suspects allegedly asked a P50,000 placement fee from their victims for nonexistent jobs in Papua New Guinea, Palau and other countries, with $900 as monthly salary.

The complainants said they had been waiting for their job placements for the past eight months now.

# UP at 97 years still on top of the heap, says new president

**By DJ Yap**

ATENEO and De La Salle Universities still have a long way to go before they can catch up with the State University, according to University of the Philippines (UP) president Emerlinda Roman.

UP is still on top of the heap, particularly in science and technology, said Roman, even though some of its full-time professors get pay much lower than that of Ateneo or De La Salle's assistant instructors.

What sets UP apart is the wide range of programs it offers to students, unlike private universities which do not have the resources, she told the INQUIRER during a luncheon with UP executives and media yesterday.

For instance, the university offers courses like archaeological studies, Roman said.

"They will have a hard time catching up because they will still have to invest in a lot of infrastructure, unlike UP which gets support from the government," she said.

But the UP president admitted that the turnover rate of UP professors was high. Many of them leave the university for other schools or the private sector for higher pay.

"The highest-paid UP professor gets P30,000. Ateneo does not have a pay ceiling for its professors, while at De La Salle, the highest-paid professor gets about P95,000," she said.

Roman said the university's administration would need to be aggressive in its fund-raising schemes to maintain its academic leadership.

The focal point of this cash-generating program is its centennial celebration in 2008, she said.

"We want to touch the hearts of the alumni to contribute to UP," Roman said.

Other possible cash-generating schemes include converting UP property into science and technology parks, and applying for patents, she said.

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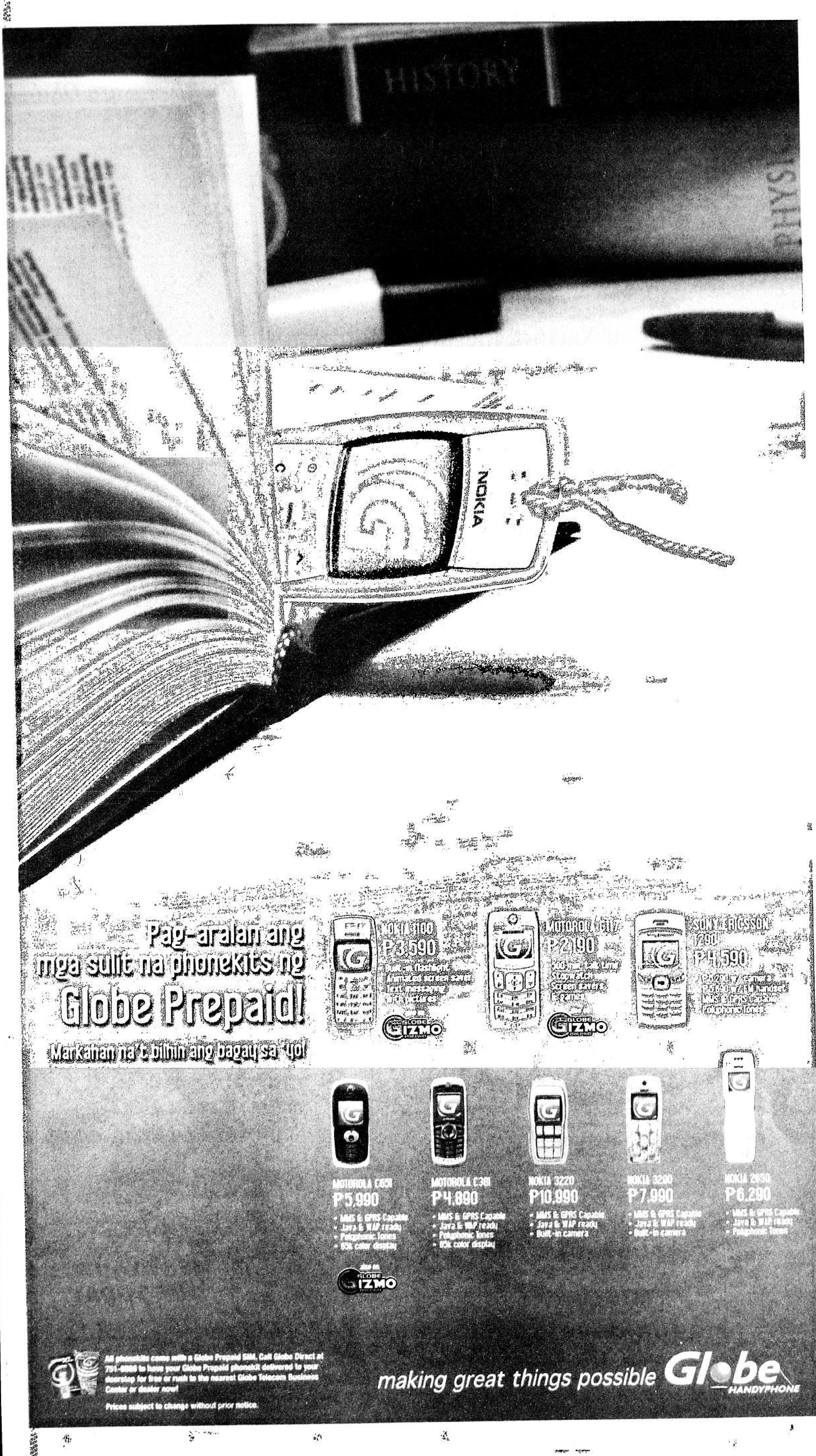

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**GOLF:** LPGA – Shoprite Classic; 9 a.m. (r); ESPN – Take another look back at the second round from New Jersey.

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# Paintmasters draw first blood

## *Welcoat slips past Montaña in thriller*

By Jasmine W. Payo

**LEO Najorda came out big in the clutches as Welcoat Paints nipped Montaña Pawnshop, 82-80, yesterday in Game 1 of the PBL Unity Cup best-of-five finals at the Cuneta Astrodome.**

Najorda shared scoring honors with Anthony Washington for Welcoat with 14 points and hit the shots that kept Montaña at bay in the dying minutes.

"For the last two games, Najorda has been one of our heroes," said Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia.

The Paintmasters leaned on a balanced offensive charge with reserve Erwin Sta. Maria delivering 13 points and Jay-R Reyes contributing 10.

Welcoat also overcame the usually strong performances of Montaña stars Alex Compton and Jon Dan Salvador, who combined for 48 points.

"It was the breaks of the game," added Garcia. "Montaña came out strong but we were able to match their intensity."

Earlier, Jett Latonio nailed a jumper with barely a second left to lift Granny Goose past Magnolia Ice Cream, 67-65, in their knockout match for third place.

"Every conference this team is improving and it's a good sign," said coach Jun Tan after the Kornets stunned the defending champions. "This is a team with no star, so they never know who'll come out strong."

The Kornets trailed 65-61 in the final minute but Chico Lanete drilled four straight points to tie the game at 65.

Lanete, who missed crucial free throws in the Kornets' semifinal loss against Montaña, redeemed himself with a team-high 15 points. JR Quiñahan chipped in 13 markers.

Welcoat held a 78-69 advantage before Compton and Salvador ignited a Montaña comeback, 80-77, 42.9 seconds remaining.

Washington's split free throws gave Welcoat an 81-77 edge, but Compton countered with a three-pointer to push Montaña within a point, 81-80, with only 16.7 ticks left.

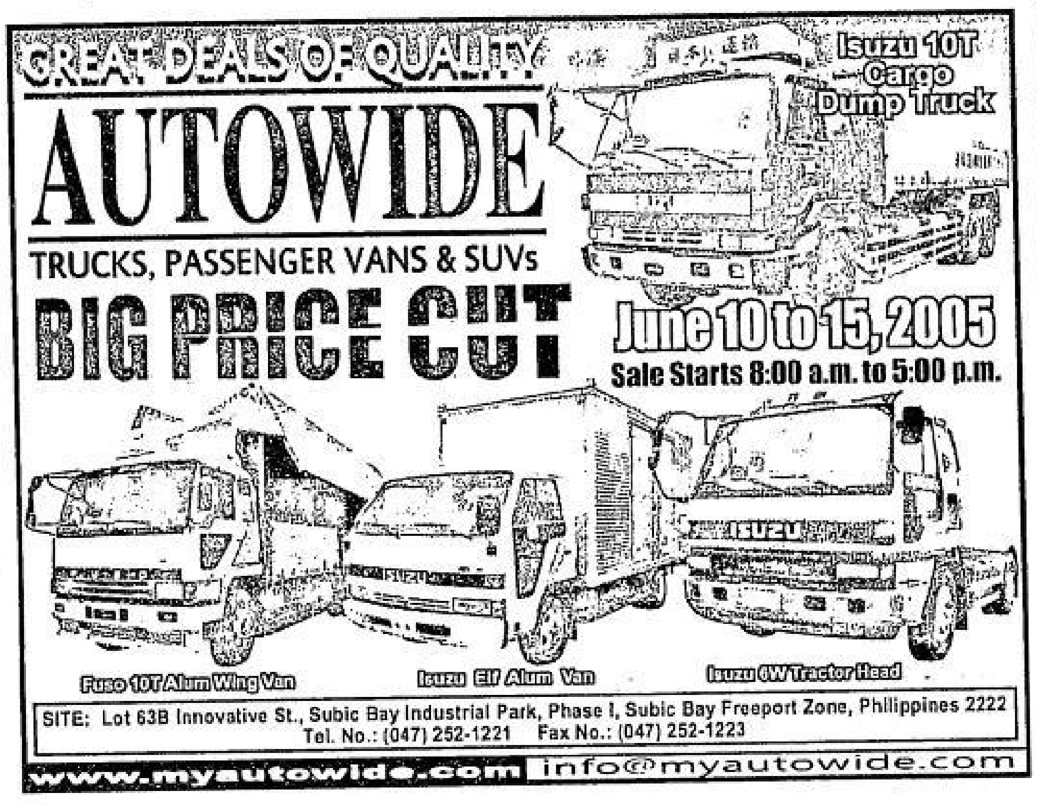
Although the Jewels were forced to send Washington at the foul line, the 6-foot-7 Fil-Am again split his charities, 82-80.

Hoping to force overtime, the Jewels

PAINTMASTERS/ A26

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- Torre begs off from SEAG /A27
- Wildcard breaks Nadal's 24-game win run /A28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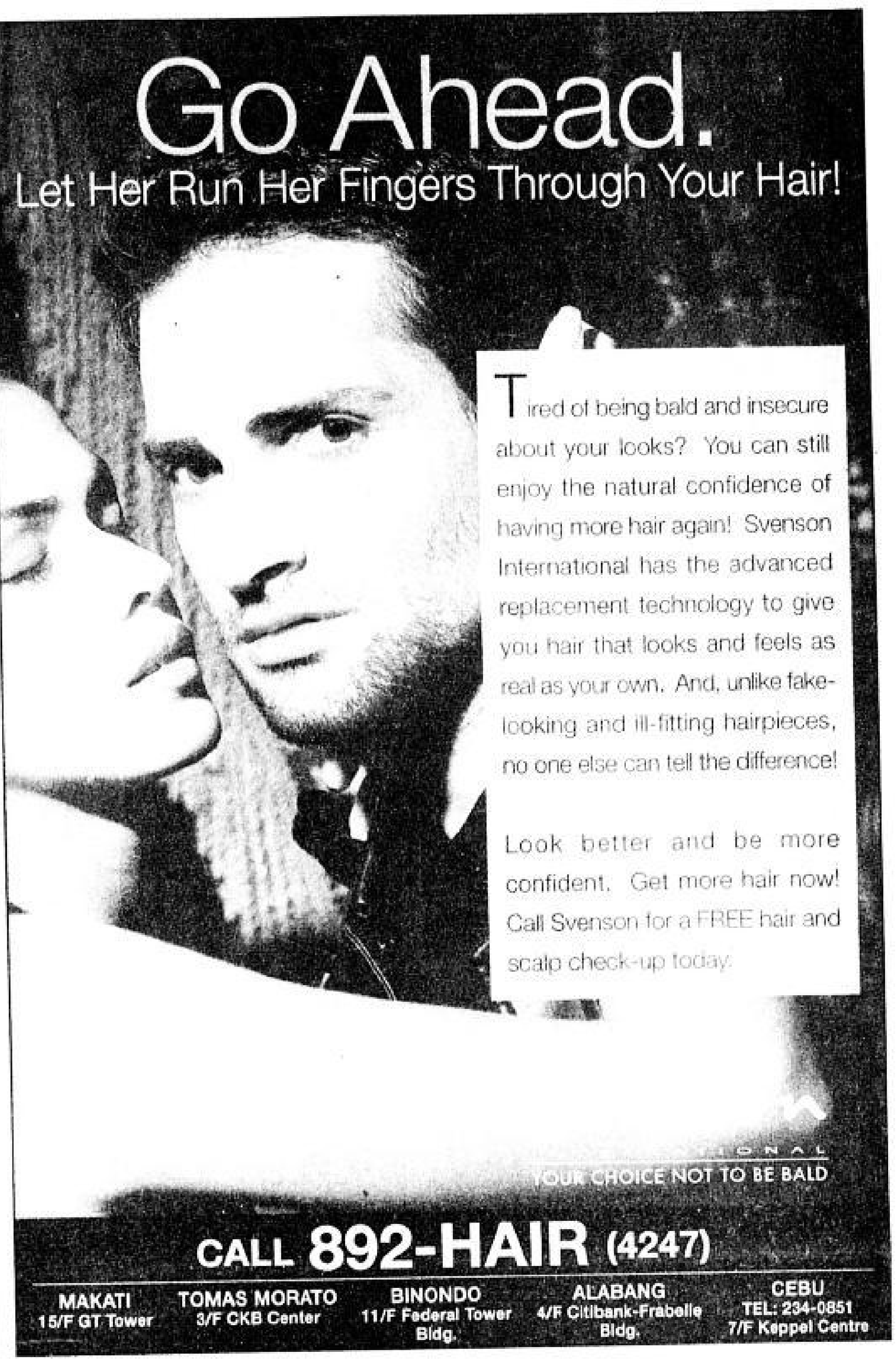
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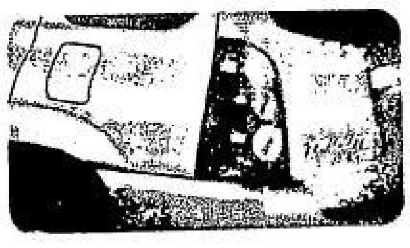

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# Lomibao catches idle Cua for women's chess lead

WOMAN Fide Master. Sheerie Joy Lomibao bested Ma. Zayrah dela Cruz Wednesday night to gain a piece of the lead after 10 rounds in the Women's Standard Chess Grand Finals at the Sunflower Hotel in Tagaytay City.

Lomibao, the reigning national champion, took the win after 50 moves of Queen's Pawn Opening and pushed her total to 7.5 points, the same output of erstwhile solo leader Shercila Cua.

Cua took a bye Wednesday.

Enerose Magno also sustained her charge in the backstretch of the event sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP).

Magno, who turned 19 Wednesday, trounced Therese Gonzales in 46 moves of another Queen's Pawn duel. She was 2-0 on her birthday and 7.0 in the tournament so far.

Woman National Master Aices Salvador held on to fourth spot with 6.0 points after downing WNM Joann Toledo in 69 moves of Center Counter Game.

Finally regaining her spot in the magic five was top seed Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza.

After a series of draws, Mendoza clustered two wins Wednesday and improved to 5.5 points. She crushed Arianne Aguja in 43 moves of Sicilian.

The top five finishers will make up the national women's standard chess team to this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Still in the hunt for a spot in the team were Gonzales and WNM Loreshyl Cuizon with 5.0 points each and Catherine Pereña with 4.5.

Cuizon, the lone bet from Mindanao, beat Geneline De Ramos after 82 moves of Irregular Opening while Pereña clobbered Rulp Ylem Jose in 46 moves of Gruenfeld.

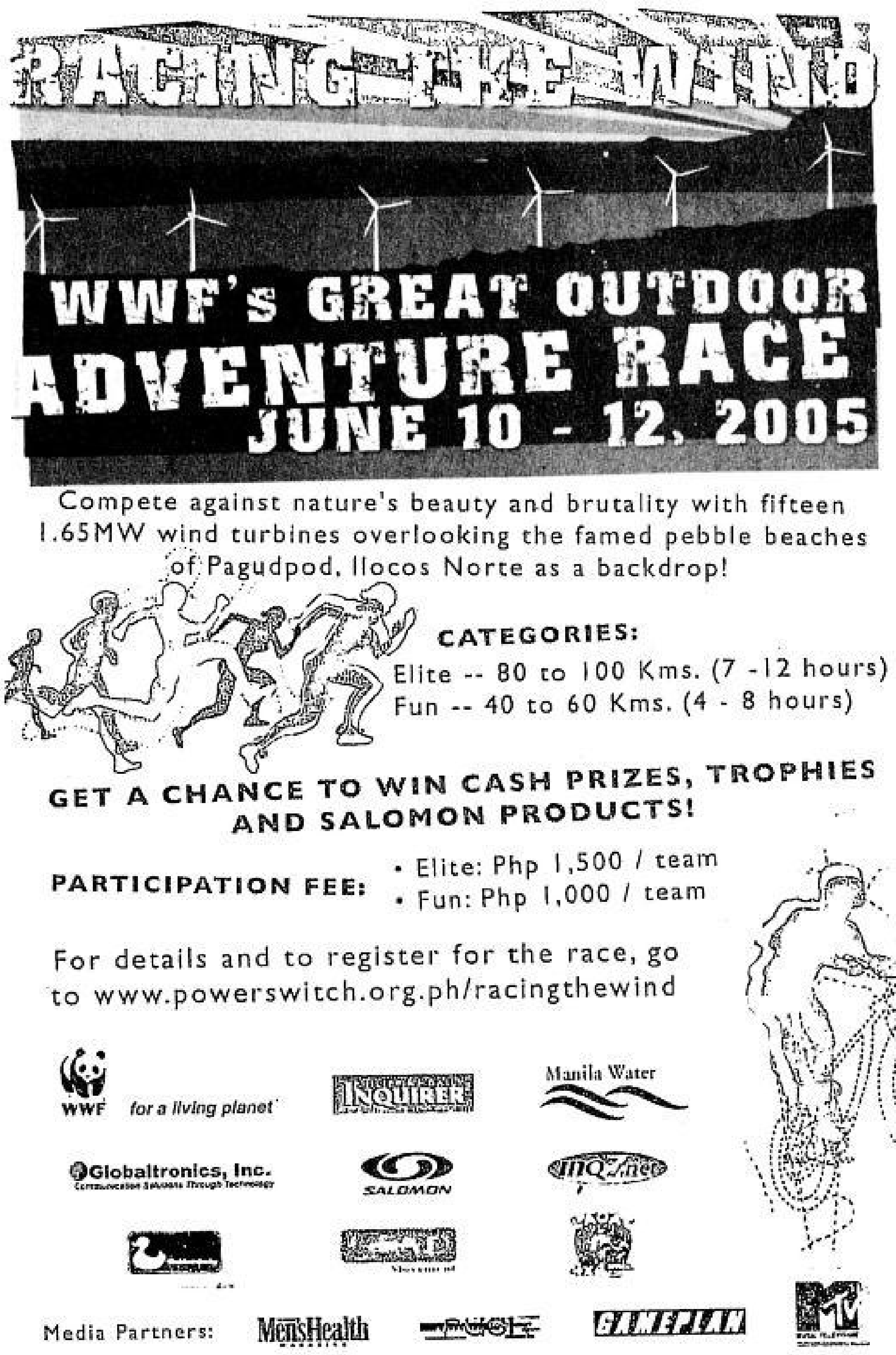
Meanwhile, the 2005 National Chess Team Championship gets under way on June 13-19 at the St. Michael College Gymin Iligan City.

More than 30 teams from all over the country, led by powerhouse Team Tagaytay City, are expected to join the weeklong event sponsored by the local government of Iligan City headed by Mayor Laurence Cruz.

The Team Tagaytay of Mayor Bambol Tolentino will be bannered by Grandmaster Joey Antonio.

Each team can only field one master.

The Swiss System tournament sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) offers P100,000 to the champion, P60,000 to second and P40,000 to third. The fourth to 10th placers will also receive cash prizes.



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# PBL: Paintmasters draw first blood

From page A25

turned to Compton who missed on a drive in the closing seconds.

The Jewels held a precarious 63-59 lead early in the fourth quarter until the Paintmasters fired six unanswered points to take a 65-63 lead.

After Alwyn Espiritu knotted the contest, 65-65, Welcoat staged another 6-0 spurt for a 71-65 buffer at the 4:42 mark.

The Paintmasters stretched their lead to 76-67 after a Najorda triple.

The Jewels controlled most of the game, with Salvador starting out strong in the first quarter for a 16-8 advantage. Sta. Maria, though, stepped up in the second period, drilling eight straight points to tie the game, 24-24.

The scores:

**First Game**

**GRANNY GOOSE 67**—Lanete 15, Quiñahan 13, Grijaldo 10, Latonio 9, Santos 9, Almeda 5, Cruz 2, Cervantes 2, David 2, Allad 0, Concha 0, Manalo 0, Saladaga 0, Ferrer 0.

**MAGNOLIA 65**—Miranda 18, Rañeses 15, Misolas 13, Santos 10, Calli 5, Jones 4, Yabut 0, Co 0, Rizada 0, Cutler 0, Isip 0, Chan 0, Garcia 0, Caceres 0

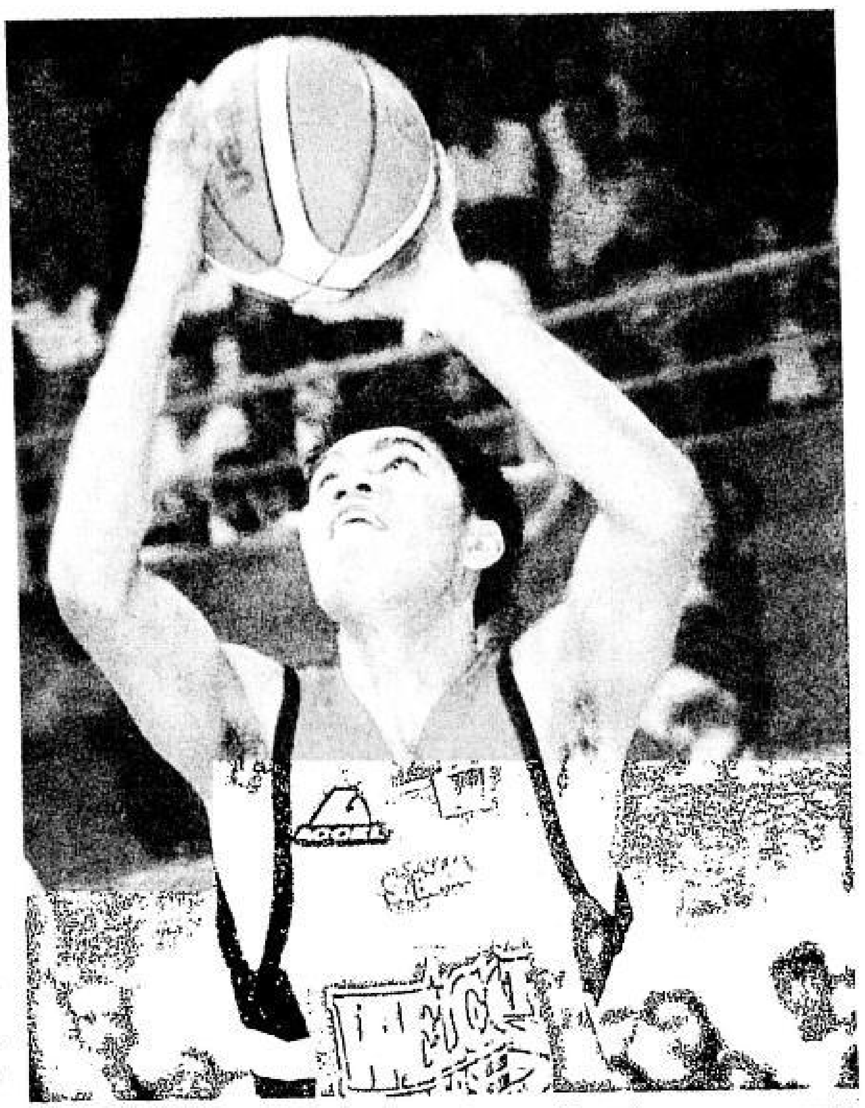
Quarters: 16-17, 32-27, 48-47, 67-65.

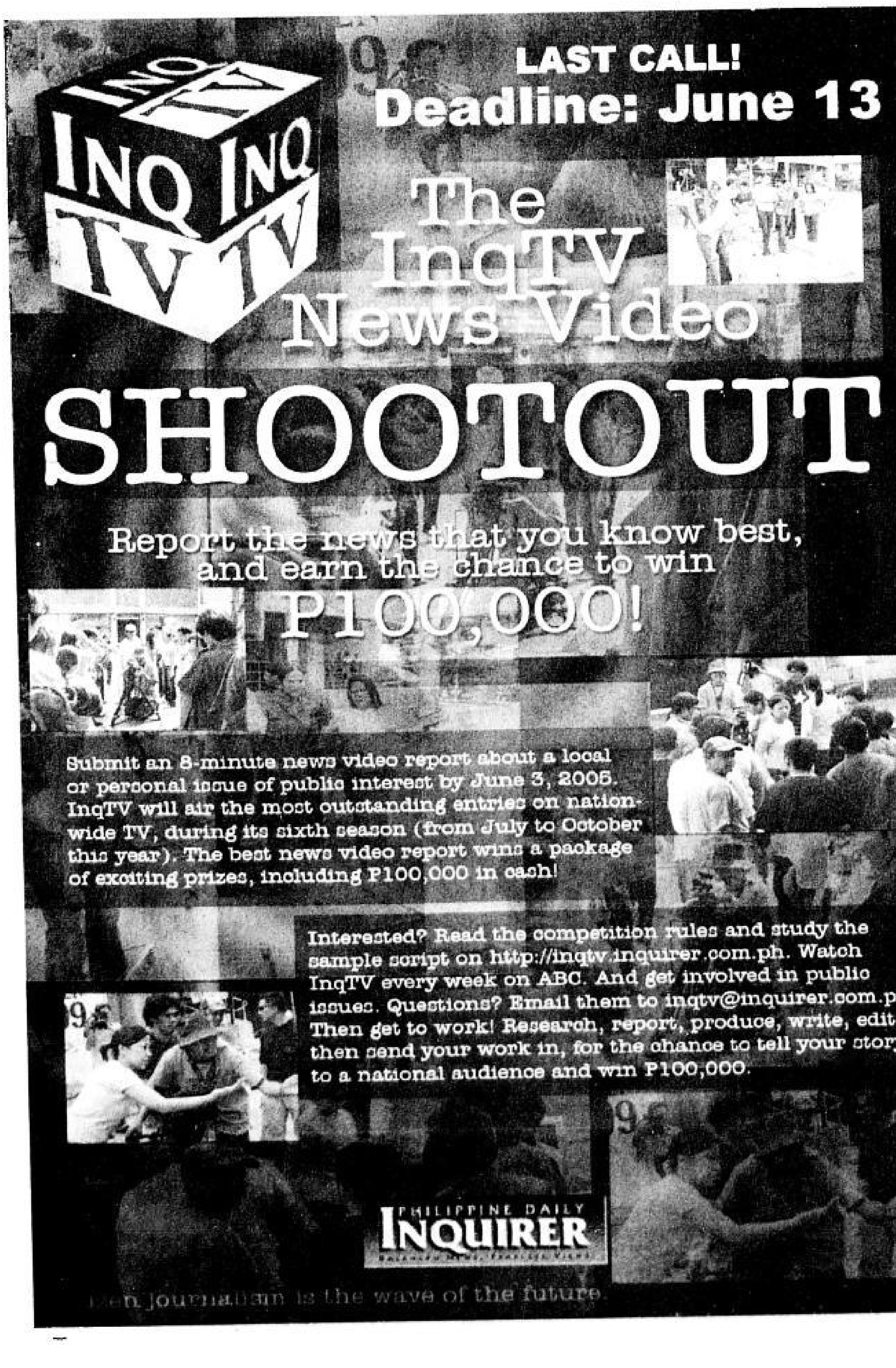
**Second Game**

**WELCOAT 82**—Najorda 14, Washington 14,Sta. Maria 13, Reyes 10, Tangkay 9, Coching 8, Dy 6, Ortiguerra 4, Tan 2, Gamboa 2, Orbeta 0, Junio 0.

**MONTAÑA 80**—Compton 25, Salvador 23, Capus 6, Vergara 6, Juntilla 6, Baguion 5, Mercado 4. Dela Cuesta 3, Espiritu 2, Bono 0, Guerrero 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 35-36, 59-60, 82-80.


LEO Najorda makes a big statement again versus Montaña. PDI PHOTO



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# Baguio Lions tries to get back on track vs Cavite five

BAGUIO CITY—Host Baguio Lions try to end a two-game skid today when they face the Cavite Insurers at 6 p.m. in the lone 2005 Panasonic-NBC National Basketball Championship match at the University of Baguio gym here.

The Texas Instruments Philippines/Beneco-backed Lions of Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. are expected to have their hands full in their third outing. But they are confident of breaking into the win column after losing to the Parañaque Jets and the Valencia Golden Harvest.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar eye their third victory in six games in the Northern Conference of the tournament backed by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoan Industries, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Hotel.

Today's match is considered a big test for the Lions since they are facing a team which also fell to Valencia recently.

The BAP-Philippine Training team is on top of the Northern Conference at 2-0, followed by Forward Taguig (3-1), Jets (2-2), Laguna Spring (1-3) and Lions (0-2).

Ozamiz leads the Southern Conference with five straight wins, followed by defending champion Tribu Sugbu (2-1), Iligan and Valencia (2-2), Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro (1-2) and Zamboanga del Norte (0-3).

NBC games are shown on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. every Sunday and on Prime Channel at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. daily.

# Preparations for SEAG in provinces up at Scoop today

THE STATE of preparations in the provinces for the Southeast Asian Games will be discussed in today's edition of the SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Malate.

Guesting in today's session are Philippine Southeast Asian Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, who returned from an inspection of facilities in Cebu yesterday, and Philippine Sports Commission commissioner Joey Mundo.

Also gracing the occasion are Gymnastics Association of the Philippines president Noel Buenaventura, vice president Cynthia Carrion and members of the national gymnastics team to the coming SEA Games.

YOUNG GUNS: The Fila Blue pair in action during the PDI-Toby's Sports Bullit Badminton Challenge held at the SM Megatrade Hall recently. Fila also fielded Red and White teams of youngsters in the tourney for kids 7 to 10 years old.

# New import Melvin lifts Purefoods past FedEx

By June Navarro

**ANTIPOLO CITY—He can shoot threes, glide with serpentine moves to the basket and bang his way in the paint with the finesse of a ballet dancer.**

Purefoods found a complete package in Markus Melvin to trip FedEx, 98-87, and move a win away from advancing to the quarterfinals of the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night.

In the second game, the Red Bull Barako took the first game in its best-of-three series with Barangay Ginebra Kings, 99-84

Melvin, who replaced seven-footer Lorenzo Coleman, electrified the sleepy Yñares Center crowd with his array of flamboyant shots, going 11 of 22 from the field and sinking all but one of his 11 free throws to finish with a game-high 33 points.

The North Carolina State alum also had 21 rebounds, four steals, a block and a steal in an almost no-relief job. After a stint in Lebanon, Melvin arrived last Monday.

"We finally found a guy who can grab those rebounds and score at the same time," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

**GAMES TODAY** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Shell
7:35 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola

The TJ Hotdogs needed one more victory to wrap up the best-of-three wildcard series and meet either Sta. Lucia Realty and Shell in the quarterfinals.

"His (Melvin) energy rubbed off on the team, but we're lucky our import has not yet been scouted," Gregorio said. "I expect (Anthony) Pig Miller to come up with a different challenge in Game 2."

Melvin suffered from leg cramps after nailing 11 of the Hotdogs' 13 points bridging the third and fourth quarters, forcing the 6-foot-8 import to ride the bench with Purefoods ahead, 72-60, in the early minutes of the final period.

When Melvin came back with less than three minutes remaining, the Hotdogs had already doomed the chances of the Express by building a 91-69 spread on the timely sniping of James Yap and Paul Artadi's fast-break plays.

YAP: Big contributor to the TJ Hotdogs' cause. PDI PHOTO

The scores:

**PUREFOODS 98**—Melvin 33, Castillo 20, Yap 15, Artadi 14, Raymundo 9, Simon 3, Espinosa 2, Yee 2, Limpot 0, Evangelista 0.

**FEDEX 87**—Arboleda 19, Miller 17, David 13, Gonzales 12, Ritualo 8, Ferriols 7, Pingris 5, Billones 4, De Ocampo 2, Dacia 0. Codinera 0.

**Quarters:** 29-21, 44-39, 68-60, 98-87

**Second Game**

RED BULL 99—Barron 26, Tugade 20, Asaytono 12, Meneses 11, Robinson 6, Valenzuela 6, Gahol 4, Baguio 4, Villanueva 4, Felhi 0, Ybanez 0, Ejercito 0, Torion 0.

GINEBRA 84—Caguioa 28, Fuller 16, Adducul 14, Salvacion 11, Seigle 6, Santos 6, Echavez 3, Dimaunahan 0, Basco 0, Helterbrand 0, Noble 0.

**Quarters:** 20-21, 45-45, 71-65, 99-84.

# Cortez vs Abarrientos matchup to watch

WHEN the Alaska Aces plunge into action in the wildcard phase of the Gran Matador-PBA Fiesta Conference tonight at the Big Dome, coach Tim Cone will inevitably gauge the past and present of the franchise.

The third-seeded Aces will battle the 10th-seeded Coca-Cola Tigers, a team whose heart and soul was once anchored on Cone's triangle offense.

More importantly, the game will highlight the matchup between veteran Tigers guard Johnny Abarrientos and Alaska's dynamic young playmaker Mike Cortez.

The 33-year-old Abarrientos was the catalyst of the Aces' success in the 1990s and early 2000, a period when Cone guided the franchise to nine titles in 14 finals appearances, including a grand slam in 1996.

The 24-year-old Cortez assumed the role of court general for the Aces after Abarrientos' departure.

Cone said Cortez reminds him a lot of Abarrientos.

Though Cortez still has to approximate the success of the 5-foot-7 Abarrientos, he leads the Coke guard in the numbers' game.

By the end of the qualification round, Cortez averaged 11.2 points and 5.8 assists compared to the 7.2 points, 6.0 assists and 2.2 steals registered by Abarrientos.

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CHESS IN CRISIS

# GM Torre begs off from SEA Games squad

By Musong R. Castillo

TORRE: Unfair

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre has opted not to play in the Southeast Asian Games, further complicating the chess row that has set back the country's title-retention bid in the biennial competition.

Torre yesterday said it is totally unfair that he is being pilloried by some players over reports that the National Chess Federation of the Philippines might seed him outright to the national team.

"The situation is already complicated as it is," Torre, Asia's first GM, told the INQUIRER. "It will only get worse if I get myself involved.

"I am begging off, *mas mabuti na iyon*, that will put the issue to rest."

Torre's decision is sure to throw the spanner in the works for the national chess championship in Tagaytay City, still unresumed due to player protests over alleged favoritism by certain NCFP officials toward Torre and the other GMs.

Torre supported the selection of the captain's pick, or the so-called "NCFP option."

The absence of Torre in the Tagaytay tournament, which is being held to select the members of the national team, would leave the country without its best team possible for the SEA Games, where it is the defending champion.

Players have questioned the decisions of NCFP president Go Teng Kok and the federation's board, saying they favored all four of the country's GMs to the detriment of lower-ranked candidates who are shooting for SEAG team slots.

Also among the players' grievances was the NCFP's decision to reset the matches of GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and Nelson Mariano who both failed to make it to the tournament's official start last week.

Mariano and Antonio came from a big tournament in the United States and made it to Tagaytay only after three rounds had been played.

Go yesterday ordered the resumption in the next three days of the postponed matches, including those of Antonio and Mariano, prior to the continuation of the qualification tournament on June 23.

Some players want the forfeiture of Mariano and Antonio's first three matches.

They also hit out at the NCFP option, which was purportedly meant to seed a highly ranked player—variously identified in reports as Torre, GM Bong Villamayor and Mark Paragua—to the SEAG team.

The retention of the "option" and the non-forfeiture of Mariano and Antonio's matches have prompted a group of players led by IM Chito Garma to withdraw from the Tagaytay tournament.

The veteran Villamayor also pulled out of the event because of pressing matters in Singapore, where he is now based.

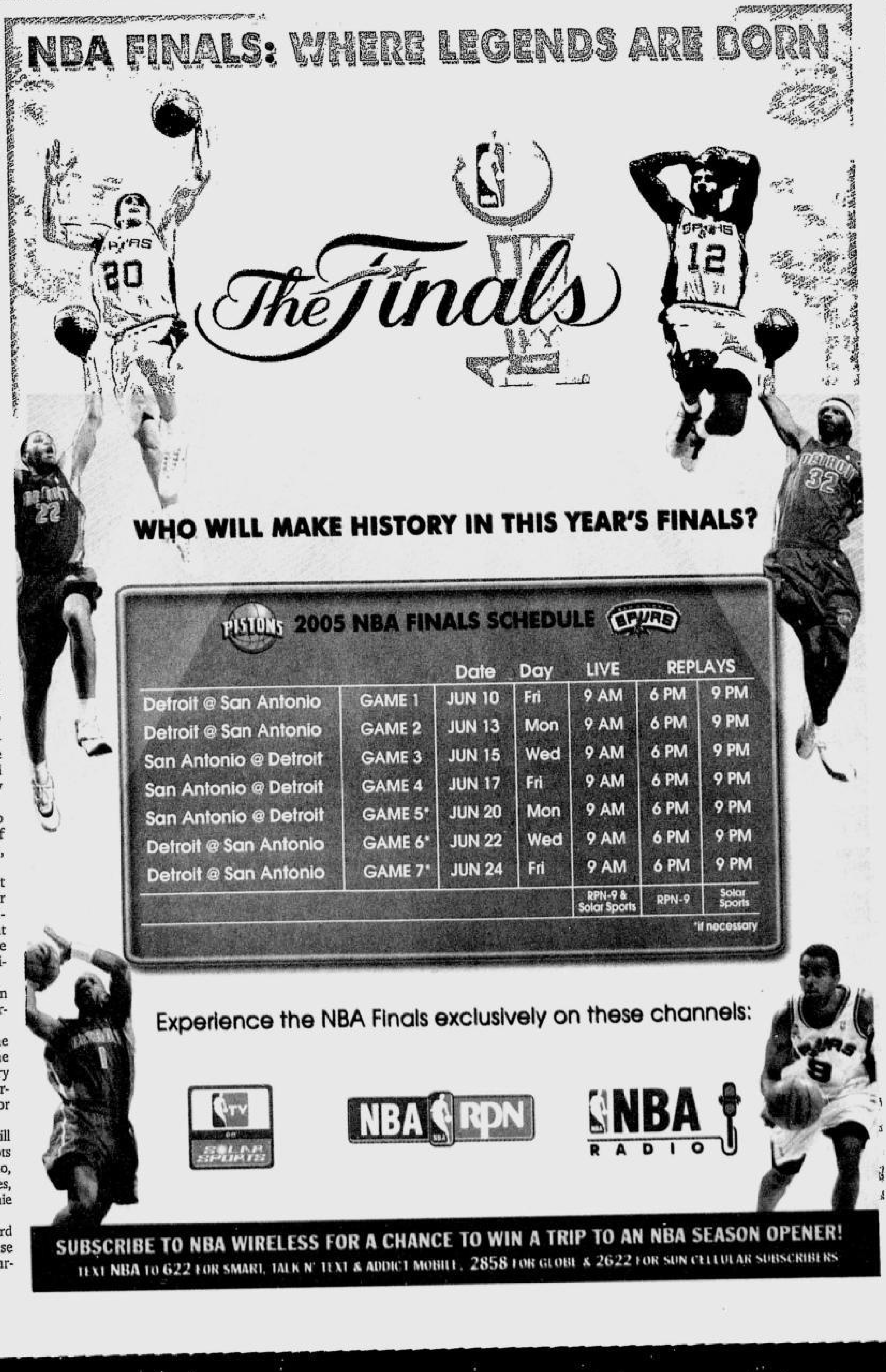
"They (NCFP) want us to set aside our opinion and go by their decisions," Garma said in Filipino. "This will set a precedent and it will not stop there. We refuse to play because our principles are on the line now."

"If there is a sacrifice (move) in chess, this is our sacrifice," Garma said.

Go tried in vain to appease the players during a bull session he hosted along with NCFP secretary general Samuel Estimo, chief arbiter Gene Poliarco and director Willie Abalos recently.

As it is, only nine players will now slug it out for the first four slots in Tagaytay with Antonio, Mariano, IMs Paragua and Jayson Gonzales, and tournament leader Fernie Donguines the biggest names.

The others are IMs Richard Bitoon and Ronald Bancod, Jesse Noel Sales and UP coach Leonardo Carlos.



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| San Antonio @ Detroit | GAME 4 | JUN 17 | Fri | 9 AM | 6 PM | 9 PM |
| San Antonio @ Detroit | GAME 5* | JUN 20 | Mon | 9 AM | 6 PM | 9 PM |
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TROT Nixon (left) of the Boston Red Sox looks up at the umpire after he slides into home safely past Yadier Molina of the St. Louis Cardinals. AP

# Yankees' Rodriguez you

TORONTO—Alex Rodriguez belted two home runs on Wednesday to become the youngest player in major league history to reach 400, powering the New York Yankees to a 12-3 rout of the Milwaukee Brewers in Interleague play at Miller Park.

Mired in a slump, Rodriguez's milestone could not have come at a better time for the reeling Yankees, who had won just once in 10 games.

Rodriguez opened the scoring with a two-run first inning shot off Brewers starter Chris Capuano then capped his historic night with an eighth inning solo shot off reliever Jorge De La Rosa, becoming the 40th player to reach the 400 plateau.

No other player in major league history has reached the mark quicker and at 29 years and 316 days, Rodriguez is the only player to achieve the feat before his 30th birthday.

The next youngest, Ken Griffey Jr, hit his 400th round-tripper at 30 years and 141 days.

"Milwaukee is a special place for me," said Rodriguez, who received a standing ovation from the crowd after hitting number 400.

"I started my career here in Wisconsin. Getting cheered on the road isn't something I'm used to.

"It's been a very special day for me." Derek Jeter and Robinson Cano

RODRIGUEZ celebrates.

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nally flexed their muscles
Milwaukee pitchers for 16

Yankees starter Mike M
4) welcomed the offensi
yielding three runs—incl

# Wildcard German breaks Nadal's 24-game win run

HALLE, Germany—Three days after winning the French Open, Rafael Nadal learned the hard way what he needs to do to succeed at Wimbledon.

German wildcard Alexander Waske upset the 19-year-old Spaniard, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, in the first round of the Gerry Weber Open —a key warmup for Wimbledon— to snap Nadal's 24-match winning streak.

All those wins came on clay, and Wednesday his serve wasn't powerful enough on the faster surface of grass.

"I belong to those people who want to learn when things don't go well," Nadal said. "I will go to Wimbledon five days early and work on my serve."

Nadal complained of fatigue, plus a mild thigh strain and blistered finger.

"I'm tired—I need two or three days off," said Nadal. "My fitness is not the best. When I go to the net I am too slow. My fitness is a big part of my game."

The match turned in the 147th-ranked Waske's favor when the third-seeded Nadal netted two drop shots to fall behind 6-5 in the second set, losing his serve for the first time.

"I played a horrible game," Nadal said. "I started well, but it is hard to concentrate after so many matches at the French."

WASKE: Nadal conqueror AFP

Cheered on by 9,000 spectators, Waske —known as a doubles specialist— received a standing ovation when he volleyed into the open court to close out the two-hour match.

Nadal, who had trouble with the trajectory of his strokes and over-relied on topspin, still expects to do well at Wimbledon.

"My confidence didn't just come from the French. I won five titles before that—I've played good all year," he said.

He has played just one previous tournament on grass as a pro—reaching the third round of Wimbledon two years ago. Last year, his grass-court season was wiped out by an ankle injury.

Australian Open champion Marat Safin saved a match point before advancing when Fabrice Santoro retired with a left thigh injury in the third set. The second-seeded Russian led, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 3-2.

Safin, who had lost seven of his previous eight matches against Santoro, erased the match point with Santoro up 6-5 in the second-set tiebreaker.

Safin won only his second match on grass in three years while fighting a knee injury that has bothered him for two months.

"It's very painful," he said of the knee. "On some serves I can't jump. But I will play Wimbledon and then take a month off."

Also, Olivier Rochus defeated eighth-seeded Feliciano Lopez, 7-6 (2), 6-3. *AP*

RAFAEL Nadal returns a shot to Alexander Waske during the Gerry Weber O

# Skiles returning as Bulls mentor

CHICAGO, Illinois—Scott Skiles agreed to a contract extension to coach the National Basketball Association's Chicago Bulls here Wednesday after guiding the club to its first playoff appearance since 1998.

Skiles had called off talks Tuesday but changed his mind after speaking to owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

"I kind of felt bad about the way things had gone," Skiles said. "I wanted to have a man-to-man talk with the owner and we reached an agreement."

Skiles, 41, was to enter the last year of his contract next season.

The Bulls had missed the playoffs since the end of the Michael Jordan era after a sixth title in eight years in 1998.

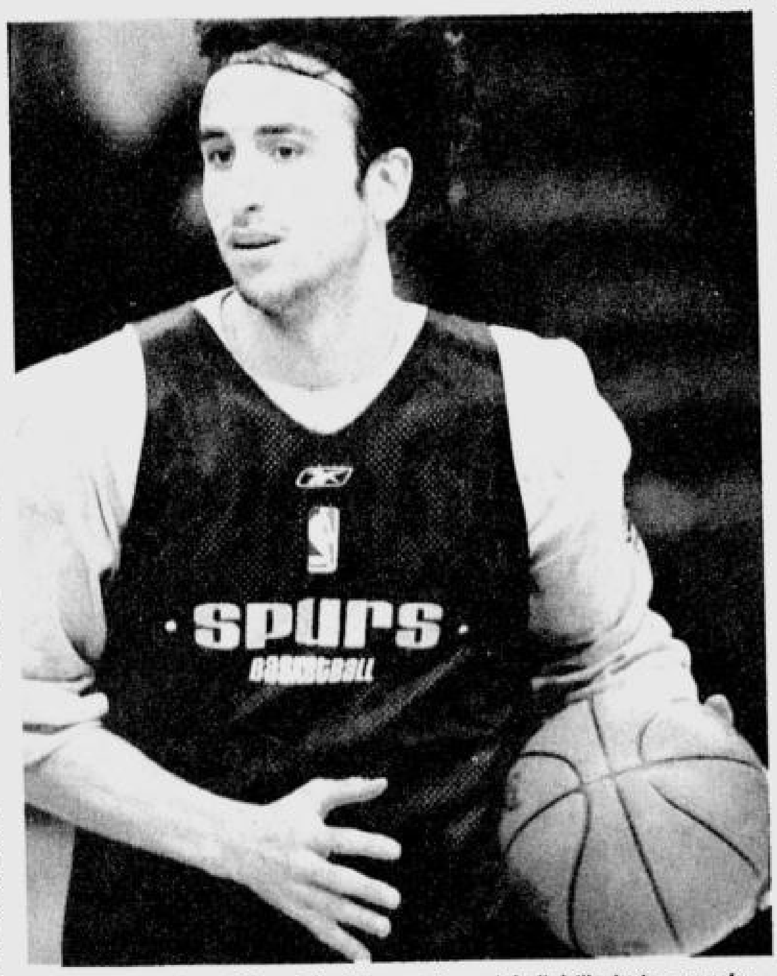
One year after going 19-47 after replacing fired coach Bill Cartwright, Skiles led the Bulls to a 47-35 season. They lost to Washington in six games in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Skiles served as coach of the Phoenix Suns for parts of three seasons and compiled a record of 116-79. *AFP*

# NBA fines Nuggets coach Karl

DENVER—Denver Nuggets coach George Karl says he was only trying to help his son when he attended a series of workouts that got him suspended and his team fined $200,000 by the NBA.

Karl said his son, Coby Karl, a junior-to-be at Boise State, took part in practice sessions last month organized by close friend and former University of Utah coach Rick Majerus. Among the other players there were Illinois guard Deron Williams and Indiana guard Bracey Wright, two juniors who were not officially announced as early entry candidates for the June 28 draft. *AP*



SAN Antonio Spurs Manu Ginobili goes through ball drills during practice for the 2005 NBA Finals in San Antonio. The Spurs face the Detroit Pistons in Game One of the best-of-seven series starting June 9. REUTERS

# Roddick thrashe

LONDON—,Andy Roddick began his quest for a hat-trick of Stella Artois titles by outclassing Australian wildcard Mark Philippoussis, 6-2, 6-4, on Wednesday to reach the third round.

While the second-seeded American handed Philippoussis a 57-minute masterclass in grasscourt tennis, Greg Rusedski and Andrew Murray gave the British fans plenty to cheer.

Rusedski crafted a 6-1 6-7 6-4 win over Russia's Dmitry Tursunov and US Open junior champion Murray underlined his growing stature by stunning American ninth seed Taylor Dent, 6-3, 6-3.

Roddick and Philippoussis' match was expected to be a fierce battle of wills between the two men who have lost the last two Wimbledon finals to world number one Roger Federer.

But Roddick, whose only two defeats on grass since 2003 have been by Swiss Federer, proved to be in a different league.

"Mark's a very accomplished grasscourt player and I wasn't super comfortable with the draw but I felt I played as well as I could," said the American, who did not drop a single point on serve during the second set.

# Knee-troubled Safin ta

BERLIN—Australian Open champion Marat Safin said on Wednesday he was still suffering with a troublesome knee but aimed to play at Wimbledon later this month.

The big Russian had to save a match point before reaching the quarterfinals of the Halle Open in Germany when a leg injury forced France's Fabrice Santoro to retire.

"It's still very painful, I have to think about every movement on the court, cannot hit the balls as I would like to," Safin told a news conference.

"I visited the doctor on Monday, and we'll see what's going to happen. I'll try to play Wimbledon and then I plan to rest for about a month to be fit again for the hardcourt season, because I better should be ready for that."

Second-seed Safin lost the first set 6-3 to the Frenchman who had

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# ngest to hit 400 homers

REUTERS

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in the first inning—on six hits in six innings of work.

New York manager Joe Torre was not around to celebrate the win after he was ejected in the fifth inning for arguing a call with first base umpire Larry Vanover.

In Chicago, Sergio Mitre pitched seven shutout innings and drove in a run as the Cubs blanked the Toronto Blue Jays, 2-0.

Mitre (1-1), who held the Blue Jays without a hit until the fifth inning, registered a season-high six strikeouts and walked one to notch his first win of the season.

Michael Wuertz came on to work a scoreless eighth and Ryan Dempster recorded the final three outs to complete the shutout and earn his seventh save of the season.

Corey Patterson had the other Cubs RBI, who scored both their runs in the third inning off Toronto ace and loser Roy Halladay (9-3).

In Philadelphia, Pat Burrell belted a two-run single to account for all scoring and four pitchers combined on a five-hitter as the Phillies shutout the Texas Rangers, 2-0.

Robinson Tejeda made his first career start for the Phillies and impressed surrendering just two hits in five innings of work but the win went Aaron Fultz (1-0) who pitched a scoreless sixth.

In Pittsburgh, Rob Mackowiak drove in four runs and Kip Wells provided seven solid innings, leading the Pirates to a 6-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Wells (5-4) scattered seven hits allowing one run, striking out four and walking two to earn the win.

In Miami, Carlos Delgado had a three run homer and brought in all five Florida runs while Dontrelle Willis became the major league's first 10-game winner as the Marlins trimmed the Seattle Mariners, 5-4, to snap a four-game losing skid.

Willis (10-2) was solid but not spectacular for the Marlins, yielding four runs on 10 hits, striking out six and walking one in 6 2/3 innings of work to take credit for the win.

*Reuters*

REUTERS

TRIPLE crown super middleweight champ Laila Ali (right), daughter of Muhammad Ali, squares off against challenger Erin Toughill at a news conference in Washington. They will fight on June 11.

en tennis tournament in Halle. Waske won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. AFP

# s Philippoussis

"I felt like I lifted my percentages a lot in the second set and was putting a lot of first serves in. That put the onus on him to try and figure something out."

Philippoussis kept pace until 2-2 in the first set when Roddick left him flat-footed behind the baseline with a series of scorching serves and stinging returns to win four games on the trot.

The Australian, winner here in 1997 but needing an invite to play this year because his world ranking has slipped to 189th, tried to make it a contest in the second set by toning down his erratic range of shots.

The move only delayed the inevitable. Roddick followed up a break that gave him a 4-3 lead by unleashing a 151 mph delivery, his eighth ace, in the next game.

Philippoussis, clearly lacking match practice after three months on the sidelines with an ankle injury, bowed out when he tamely stroked a backhand wide on the second match point.

Roddick's win improved his grasscourt record to 22-2 since 2003.

Philippoussis admitted he did not have the weapons to outgun Roddick.

*Reuters*

# rgets Wimbledon stint

beaten the world number five in seven of their previous eight meetings.

The Russian saved a match point in the tiebreak before winning it 9-7 and broke Santoro in the third to go 3-2 up before his opponent was forced out of the pre-Wimbledon grasscourt event.

Safin said there wasn't much he was able to change about his game to become a better grasscourt player.

"You can't change much, I cannot become a serve-and-volley player because of my style to play tennis," he said.

"So basically I have to be aggressive from the baseline, try to come in as much as I can and just keep on putting pressure.

I'm not able to play serve-and-volley although this would be the perfect game on grass." Safin will play Belgium's Olivier Rochus in the Halle quarters.

*Reuters*

# Iron Mike says he will gut out McBride 'like a fish' Saturday

WASHINGTON—Former world champion Mike Tyson says he will gut Irishman Kevin McBride "like a fish" when the two heavyweights meet on Saturday night.

Tyson, who is three weeks shy of his 39th birthday, hopes to redeem himself following the fourth-round knockout defeat by Briton Danny Williams in Louisville, Kentucky, in July.

Despite Tyson's age and declining skills, the 6-foot-6, 260-pound McBride, who has a 32-4-1 record including 27 knockouts, is rated the underdog.

"I'll gut him like a fish," the American yelled during a news conference at Howard University on Wednesday.

Irish champion McBride, 32, said fighting Tyson "was a dream come true" but added that he had come to Washington to win.

"When I hit Mike Tyson on the chin, he's going to think the whole of Ireland, as an island, hit him on the chin," said McBride.

"On June 11, I'm going to shock the world. Believe me when I say it.

"I'm a contender, not a pretender."

Tyson spent most of the news conference talking about his legacy.

"Some reporters have called this (fight) a fiasco," Tyson said.

*Reuters*

TYSON, (left), faces off with opponent Kevin McBride. AP

# Iran World Cup entry sparks celebrations

TEHRAN—Iran beat Bahrain, 1-0, here Wednesday to earn qualification for next year's World Cup, sparking mass celebrations across the Islamic republic.

Huge crowds of delighted residents took to the streets, as the capital and other big cities erupted into a deafening cacophony of car horns, firecrackers and cheering.

"We will go to the World Cup to achieve something there, not only to participate," Iran's elated Croatian coach Branko Ivankovich told reporters.

"Our successful games in our group show that we are going to be an upsetting team there. Have you seen how ambitious our player are? With their technique and their power, they are able to turn against all challengers." This is the third time that Iran have made it to football's high feast.

"I can't describe how happy I am. I thank deeply and earnestly all the Iranian nation for their support. The players were heroic," he said.

Iran needed just a draw against the visitors to qualify, but managed to go one better by securing a tough win against the equally determined visitors.

The win puts Iran—the top Asian side and 18th in Fifa's world rankings—top of Asian qualifying Group B with 13 points followed by Japan with 12 points. Bahrain has four points and the North Koreans none.

The top two teams in the group gain automatic qualification, and with just one round of games left to play, Iran and Japan are mathematically certain of going through. Earlier Wednesday, Japan became the first team of any region to qualify.

The match saw Iran get off to a strong start, with two chances in the third minute, and defender Mohammad Nosrati hitting the post in the fourth. In the first 15 minutes, Iran had seven corners.

*AFP*

SIX-TIME Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong speeds during the third stage of the Dauphine Libere cycling race. He finished third. AP

# Armstrong settles for 3rd in ITT race

ROANNE, France—Lance Armstrong, beaten into third place in a 46.5-kilometer individual time trial in the Dauphine Libere on Wednesday, could start his last Tour de France without a win this season.

The six-time Tour de France champion finished 26 seconds behind Colombian Santiago Botero and 25 adrift of fellow American Levi Leipheimer, who took the overall lead.

Yet Armstrong, who completed the demanding course in the hills near Roanne in one hour and 32 seconds and is third overall, was not too disappointed by his performance.

"That was hard," said Armstrong. "I started fast and hard, it was difficult with a hard climb and long downhill with headwind. It was a 100 percent effort all the way but that's OK.

"I'm not overwhelmingly pleased but I'm not disappointed, I'm on my schedule. I feel much better than in Georgia, more comfortable on the bike, my position is much better, my cadence is much better. It wasn't perfect but the overall sensation was good." Armstrong's Discovery Channel team chief Johan Bruyneel added: "This time trial was really the stage that mattered, the real test for us. And from what I saw, we have every reason to be satisfied." Badly defeated by former teammate Floyd Landis in the Tour of Georgia in April, Armstrong at least had the consolation of beating him this time. The Texan had ridden very few long time trials this season and did not know what to expect.

"There's still some work ahead of us but the timing is right," said Bruyneel, adding that Armstrong's performance in the rest of the Dauphine Libere depends on "his sensations."

*Reuters*

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# FEU, Letran, UP rule Fr. Martin Cup

**ARWIND Santos showed anew why he is college basketball's hottest player as he led the Far Eastern University Tamaraws A in annexing the 11th Father Martin Cup by nipping the tough Letran Knights, 73-70, at the San Beda Gym last Wednesday.**

Making only his second appearance in the tournament, Santos scored nine points in the second period and with help from point guard Jonas Villanueva turned the game in the Tams' favor by halftime, 41-37.

The Tams led by as many as 10 points early in the fourth period, 63-53, on a basket by Santos. The Knights threatened at 63-67, but Santos answered by forcing a turnover and scooting down the court for an easy lay-up, 69-63, and 3:37 to play.

With the Tams taking it easy again, Boyet Bautista banged in a triple at the 31-second mark to bring the Knights to their closest, 70-73. The Tams bungled the ensuing play, but the Knights failed to capitalize as they missed a series of hurried triple attempts that could have forced overtime.

The Tams of Coach Robert Flores thus avenged their only loss in the annual summer tournament supported by adidas, Globe Gentxt and PCSO, a 44-46 heartbreaker to the same Knights last April 27 at the FEU Gym. Letran absorbed its only loss, but it could not have come at the worst time.

Santos finished with a team-high 16 points while RJ Rizada added 12. Jonathan Pinera paced the Knights with 18 followed by Jonathan Aldave with 11.

Meanwhile, Letran did not go home empty handed as their Squires whipped the San Sebastian Staglets, 67-55, to bag the High School Division championship.

The University of the Philippines Lady Maroons captured the Women's Division crown with a come-from-behind victory over the FEU Lady Tams, 43-39. The Lady tams led most of the way but collapsed in the final period allowing the Lady Maroons to stage a 15-6 windup to steal the win. The Lady Maroons won all their seven games in the tournament en route to the title.

Scores:

Far Eastern A (73)—Santos 16, Rizada 12, Isip 10, Chan 7, Jo Villanueva 7, Saldua 6, Barcellano 5, Fernandez 4, Flores 4, Mangahas 2, Adolfo 0, dela Cruz 0.

Letran (70)—Pinera 18, Aldave 11, Andaya 9, Balneg 7, Bautista 7, Rodriguez 6, Aban 5, Alcaraz 5, Anabo 2, Realista 0, Quinday 0, Faudo 0, Mondragon 0.

Period Scores: 16-17, 41-37, 59-51, 73-70.

# Milo launches 29th Nat'l Marathon

ROY Vence, 2004 Milo Marathon King, and Stella Diaz, reigning queen, field questions at yesterday's marathon launch. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

STREETS of key Philippine cities will once again strut exciting action with the staging of the 29th National Milo Marathon.

Transcending gender and age, running is a major part in the active lifestyle of Filipinos. The sport's popularity can be traced back to the '70s, when a running boom captured the country's attention and led to the staging of numerous marathons. Of these, the National Milo Marathon became the most popular and most enduring.

The event is regarded as a landmark event in Philippine sports and is considered to be the country's most awaited and most prestigious running competition. Through the years, it has consistently played a key role in discovering and developing the country's best marathoners.

"We are proud and excited to present the National Milo Marathon once more," said Nestlé AVP and Milo brand manager Michelle Calo at a recent press conference. "We are now on our 29th year and we are optimistic that we can carry on with our legacy of promoting the sport in the grassroots level and producing the country's best runners."

This year's National Milo Marathon is expected to draw a huge number of participants, exceeding last year's total of 104,235 runners, 83,080 or 80 percent of whom were students.

ORGANIZERS and officials of Nestlé Philippines launch the 29th National Milo Marathon at the Bayview hotel yesterday. Seated (left to right): defending women's champion Stella Diaz, Laoag regional organizer and former Project: Gintong Alay chief Michael Keon, national racde organizer Rudy Biscocho, Milo Sports executive Pat Goc-Ong, Nestlé Phils. SVP Eugene David, Nestlé brand manager Michele Calo, and Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carreon. Defending men's champion Roy Vence stands at left with the other regional officers of the marathon. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

The marathon will run from June till October this year and kick off in General Santos City on June 26. Succeeding marathons will be held in Tacloban City on July 3, Cagayan de Oro on July 10, Lipa City on July 17, Naga City on July 24, Davao City on July 31, and Metro Manila on August 7.

Other marathons will be held in Laoag City on Aug. 14, Tarlac City on Aug. 21, Cebu City on Aug. 28, Butuan City on Sept. 4, Iloilo City on Sept. 11, and Santiago City on Sept. 18. The National Finals will be held in Manila on Oct. 9.

The 29th National MILO Marathon will showcase the following events: 3K Kiddie Run, 5K Fun Run, 5K Media Run (Final Race), 10K Run (Metro Manila Race), 21K (Half Marathon) Regional Elimination Races, 42.195K Open Metro Manila Elimination Race and a 42.195 K Final Race.

# Alcano qualifies for World Pool Championship

### CLEAN LIVING

### *Manolo R. Iñigo*

SOFT-SPOKEN Ronnie Alcano, the least written-about player in the six-man Philippine team, did the country proud last Sunday when he upset highly fancied yang Ching-shun of Chinese Taipei, 11-6, to win the fourth and final leg of the 2005 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour at the Robinsons Galleria.

In winning the Manila leg, Alcano, the 32-year-old, 5-foot-11 idol of Calamba, Laguna, finished No. 8 at the end of the Asian Tour and qualified for this year's World Pool Championship at the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in Kaohisung, the harbor city in southern Taiwan.

The top 10 finishers at the conclusion of the four-leg 2005 Tour automatically enter the World Pool Championship.

"I dedicate this victory to the people who believe in me." Alcano said in Filipino after his unexpected triumph in the star-studded tournament which drew handpicked players from 11 Asian countries. The win was worth $10,000 (roughly P540,000), Alcano's biggest paycheck ever in an international tourney.

Alcano was the most underrated member of the powerhouse Philippine team that included 2005 Asian Tour second leg winner, former world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes; world-ranked Francisco "Django" Bustamante, first leg winner Gandy Valle, who won the country's lone gold medal in 9-ball doubles (with Romeo Villanueva) of the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games; and veteran internationalist Antonio Lining and Ramil Gallego.

At the start of the Manila tourney, most billiards fans smirked at Alcano's chancesof winning, but they soon found themselves laughing on the other side of their faces after Alcano made mincemeat of his more experienced opponents such as Jeong Young Hwa of Korea, 2004 World Pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei of Chinese Taipei and Puyat Sports teammate Antonio Lining (in the semifinals).

In my case, I had picked Alcano (PDI, May 23) to win the Manila leg not only because of his past record, but also because of the experts' comments and analysis, including my interviews with those-in-the-know such as billiards "godfather" Aristeo "Putch" Puyat who said Alcano is one of the few Filipino players to have beaten Reyes in rotation, the sport's toughest game. Alcano did not disappoint.

Alcano will bank on his powerful breaks, masterful ball control and newfound confidence in this year's World Pool Championship set for July 2-10 in Kaohsiung, home to Taiwanese pool heroes Chao Fong-pang, the first Asian to win the world pool tournament twice (1993 and 2000) and yang Ching-shun, a perennial Asian Tour finalist and winner of this year's third leg.

Promoted by Matchroom Sport, the World Pool total pot money stands at $350,000 and, once again, will feature 128 players from 40 countries who will be meeting head-to-head for the first prize of $75,000.

Television partner ESPN Star Sports will cover the entire event live across Asia and will also be aired on Sky Sports in the United Kingdom as well as syndicated around the globe.

Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan will be back to defend his title, said Matchroom Sport officials who will be working with their counterparts in the Chinese Taipei Billiards Association and Tu Sports to replicate last year's resounding success. Joining the 26-year-old Pagulayan are past champions Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland of the United States, Mika Immonen of Finland, Chao Fong-pang of host Taiwan and the Philippines' biggest name in billiards.

Efren "Bata" Reyes, who will also be strutting their stuff here during the blockbuster Philippine International 9-Ball Open on June 25-29. I will be writing more about this blue-ribbon affair hosted by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports in a future column.

Launched 15 years ago, here's a list of World Pool Championship winners:

1990—Earl Strickland, US
1991—Earl Strickland
1992—Johnny Archer, US
1993—Chao Fong-pang, Chinese Taipei
1994—Takeshi Okumura, Japan
1995—Oliver Ortmann, Germany
1996—Ralf Souquet, Germany
1997—Johnny Archer, US
1998—Kunihiko Takahashi, Japan
1999—Efren "Bata" Reyes, Philippines
2000—Chao Fong-pang, Chinese Taipei
2001—Mika Immonen, Finland
2002—Earl Strickland, US
2003—Thorsten Hohmann, Germany
2004—Alex Pagulayan, RP/Canada

* * *

**TRIBUTE TO PAPA SARREAL.** Lope "Papa" Sarrel, father-in-law of boxing legend Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, will be enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, on June 9 (Friday, June 10, in Manila).

Papa's son, international matchmaker Jun Sarreal, will receive the posthumous award in behalf of the Sarreal family which includes his sisters Laura, Elorde's widow; and US-based Lilia, who will also attend the glittering affair.

Aptly called the "Grand Old Man" of professional boxing, Papa Sarreal produced 22 world champions, including Flash Elorde, who reigned as world junior lightweight champion for eight long years; Hawaii-based Ben Villaflor, Erbito Salavarria and Bernabe Villacampo. But unbeknownst to many, Papa Sarreal started as a successful musician (my late father was violinist in his orchestra which toured Asia) before he became a prominent boxing manager and promoter. He launched his boxing career in the late 1920s when he took under his wings Joe Sacramento, a lightweight who boasted of a victory over Ceferino Garcia. A top real estate broker, sugar trader and contractor in his lifetime as well, Papa Sarreal died on March 14, 1955 at the age of 92.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Pasay super 4-cock derby today

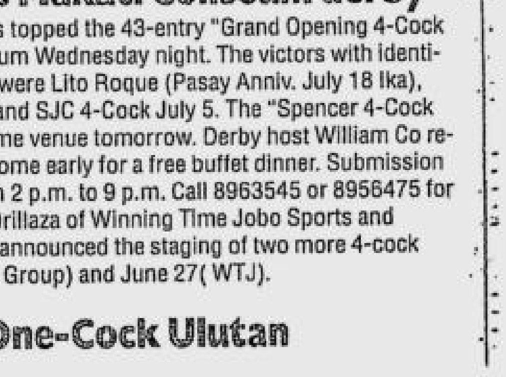
A SHOWDOWN of local and international derby champions happens today at Pasay City Cockpit with the staging of a super 4-cock derby featuring more than 70 fights. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. According to pit manager Eric de la Rosa, it's the first time Pasay Cockpit will have US cockers as participants. Billy Johnson, who has several derby titles tucked under his belt from big derbies held in Arizona, Mexico and Lousiana, will lead the American contingent. Also seeing action are Paul Fassot and Daniel Lim of California, as well as World Slasher Cup veterans Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman, also from California. Leading the locals are GCAP Cocker of the Year William Go. Call 843 1890, 8431746 and 8166750 for details.

### 3 entries tops Makati Coliseum derby

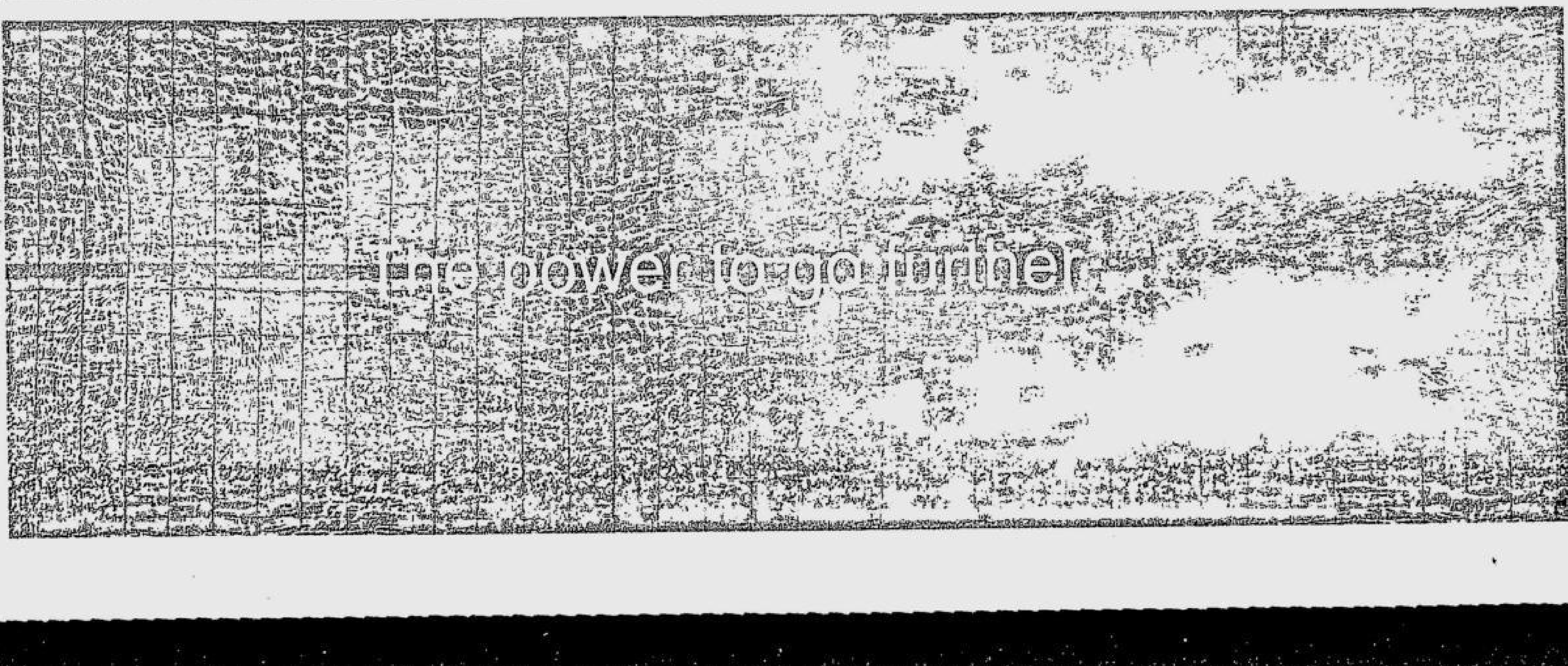
THREE long shot entries topped the 43-entry "Grand Opening 4-Cock Derby" of Makati Coliseum Wednesday night. The victors with identical 4-win, 0-loss slates were Lito Roque (Pasay Anniv. July 18 Ika), Pepe Burgos (Mojaco) and SJC 4-Cock July 5. The "Spencer 4-Cock Derby" sizzles at the same venue tomorrow. Derby host William Co requests participants to come early for a free buffet dinner. Submission of weights is today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 8963545 or 8956475 for details. Promoter Lito Orillaza of Winning Time Jobo Sports and Amusement Corp. also announced the staging of two more 4-cock events on June 20 (FTE Group) and June 27( WTJ).

### Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan at Sta. Ana

MORE than 200 entries are competing in Sta. Ana Cockpit's " Fastest Win One- Cock Ulutan" June 25 (Saturday), with a guaranteed prize of P340,000 up for grabs. Promoters Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola said the top five major prizes are: first, P68,000; second, P35,000; third, P20,000; fourth, P10,000 and six cu. ft. refrigerator and fifth, P10,000 and 21" color TV. Entry fee is P1,500 with a minimum bet of P2,200. Likewise, the first ten winners will get one 14" color TV each; 11thto 20th winners, one mountain bike; last ten winners, one 14" color TV and slowest win, P5,000. The event will start at 8 a.m. For inquiries, contact Sta. Ana Cockpit at 8983474 and 8983475.



**ON Father's Day, free Discover Scuba (confined water sessions) and snorkeling lessons will be available for fathers and their kids at Dusit hotel. It will be conducted by expert dive instructors from Eureka Dive. For inquiries, call 8673333.**



# DLSU gives Ateneo free semis ride

GAMES TOMORROW (Philsports)
3 p.m. – FEU vs Lyceum
5 p.m. – UST vs San Sebastian

THE LA SALLE Lady Archers needed an extra set to beat the Far Eastern U Lady Tams, 25-19, 12-25, 25-19, 25-19, yesterday and give University of Santo Tomas and Ateneo a free lift to the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League first conference at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Taft-based spikers rebounded from a poor second-set performance and won the next two to fashion out the victory in one hour and 25 minutes, their eighth straight as they moved within two games of sweeping the double-round eliminations of the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza.

The setback dashed FEU's hopes of at least salvaging a tie for the fourth and last semis berth as it fell to 1-7 with two games left.

UST waylaid Lyceum, 25-16, 25-20, 25-12, in the other game for its fifth win against three losses. The Lady Pirates fell to 0-9.

With Ateneo toting an even 4-4 slate, the semis cast is already complete this early although the matches in the last three playdates are still expected to be fierce as the semifinalists try to build momentum for the tough semis grind, another round robin affair.

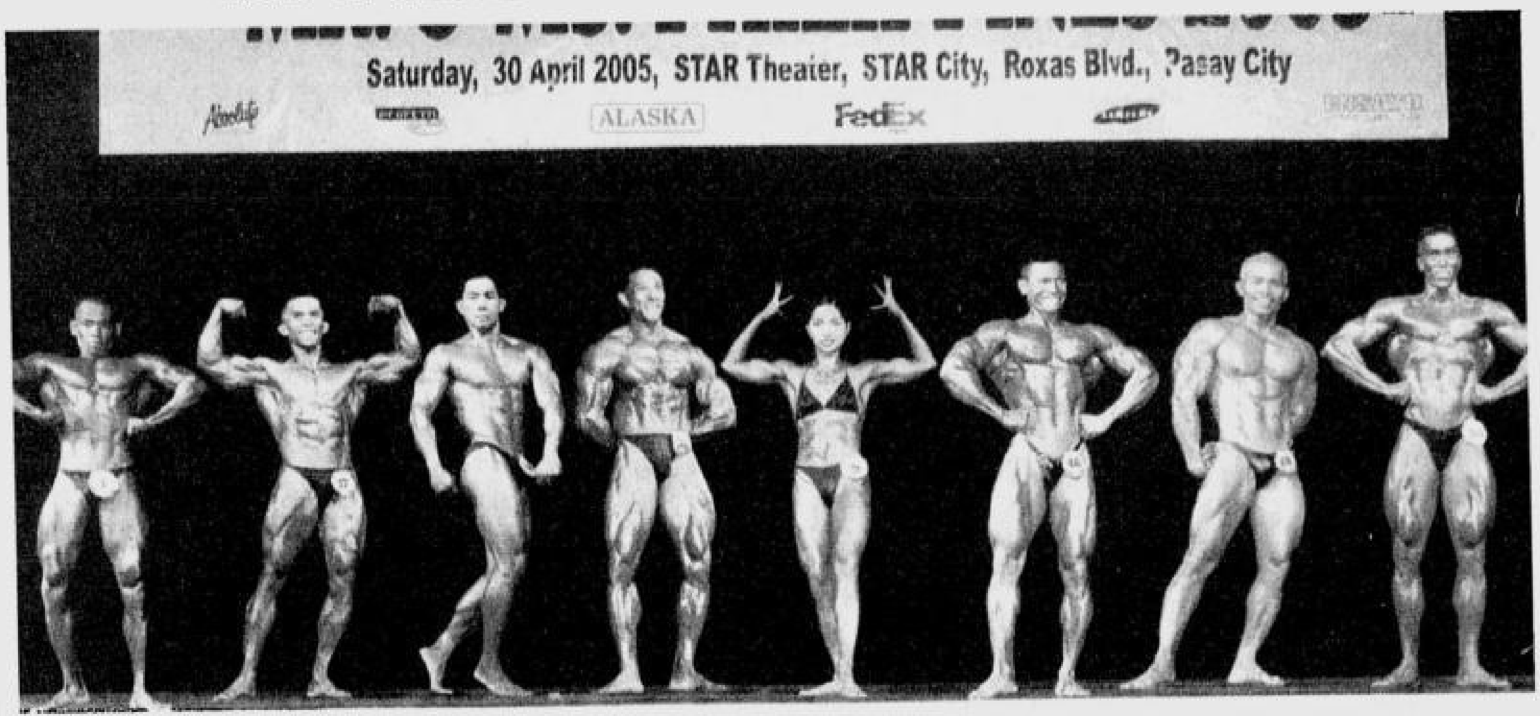
San Sebastian, the surprise package this conference, is the other semifinalist with a 6-1 card.

Maureen Penetrante scored 13 points, including 10 on attacks, as the Lady Archers seized control early only to reel back with an erratic performance in the second set that enabled the Lady Tams to come away with surprising ease.

But La Salle came out of the third set an organized lot, scoring on kills and on a tough defensive job upfront with Penetrante using her height and experience to the hilt to collect three points.

Other scorers for La Salle, which will face UST and San Sebastian in its last two games, were Desiree Hernandez with 9 points, Manilla Santos with 8 and Ferina Sael with 7.

Highlights of the match will be aired tonight on IBC-13 starting at 7, according to the organizing Sports Vision Management Group, Inc. The event is backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC 13 and Jemah Television.


Saturday, 30 April 2005, STAR Theater, STAR City, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
ALASKA
FedEx

**BODYBUILDING CHAMPS:** Winners in the recent national selection for the RP Team includes Nelson V. Totanes, Michael O. Borenaga; Rogelio B. Almasa Sr.; Roderick D. Ternida; Myra Z. Villanueva ; Alfredo G. Trazona Jr. Jesus L. Duga ; and Angelito B. Llora. The team is preparing for the Asian Invitational on Sept. 14-18 in Seoul, Korea, and the SEA Games on Nov. 28-29 at the Teatro ng GSIS, Pasay City.

# Peñalosa fights Murillo instead

THIS time, he won't have to dangle half of his purse just to lure an opponent.

Former WBC superfly king Gerry Peñalosa yesterday found out that he will be fighting a new foe in Felix Murillo after his scheduled opponent tomorrow, Reynaldo Hurtado, took another fight and lost the other day to Mauricio Martinez on a fourth-round technical knockout.

In a press release sent to the media, organizers of the fight said although Peñalosa now has a new opponent, he will still be headlining the June 10 show set at the National Guard Armory in Lynn, Massachusetts.

This will be Peñalosa's first fight in the United States since tying up with promoter Murad Muhammad and trainer Buddy McGirt four months ago.

"He has really been hoping to fight at the soonest possible time because he now wants to go back home to see his family," said older brother and former two-division world champ Dodie Boy Peñalosa in an earlier interview." He's been training religiously, I wonder how his opponent will be able to deal with that."

The southpaw Peñalosa (48-5-2, 33 KO's), who has been calling out world bantamweight king Rafael Marquez lately, will put his credentials on the line against fellow southpaw Murillo, a 31-year-old Miami-based Colombian.

Castulo Gonzalez battles featherweight John Seme in a 6-rounder. Salven Lagumbay

**NBA MADNESS PARTY:** Dwight Howard, the 19-year-old rookie sensation of the Orlando Magic, grooves with the Houston Rockets Power Dancers and the high-energy band Hyperbeat at the VIP Party tendered by the NBA for partners and sponsors Friday evening.

# Poverty no hindrance to success – Ramirez

By Musong R. Castillo

RAMIREZ

JESS YUSON

WILLIAM "Butch" Ramirez shed tears of joy upon learning that he was appointed chair of the Philippine Sports Commission recently.

Coming from the poor and rising from the ranks, Ramirez believes that his ascension to the highest post in the government sports agency is a "triumph of performance and integrity."

"Before, *iniisip ko* that my only mistake why I haven't become chairman ay *dahil mahirap lang ako*," Ramirez said. "This is for the 70 percent of the population (the poor) in the country."

The 55-year-old Ramirez officially became the seventh chair of the PSC last Monday after President Macapagal-Arroyo handed down his appointment papers after five months sitting as officer-in-charge.

Ramirez was informed of his appointment by his secretary while doing the rounds of inspection for the Southeast Asian Games venues in Bacolod.

A holder of a master's degree from the Ateneo de Davao, Ramirez said that the Bacolod venues are 75 percent ready to host the Games.

There will be a total of eight events in four sports—boxing, football, weightlifting and volleyball—in Bacolod.

He will fly to Cebu next week to look at the venues where karate-do, dance sports, sepak takraw and mountain bike will be held.

"The pressure (now) is tremendous, Ramirez admitted.

"If you used to run at 75 (kph) before, now you have to go at 150, because that's how big my responsibility is right now."

Ramirez wants the promotion of sports institutes all over the country that will enhance the training programs and upgrade the quality of coaches and athletes.

# Tanduay president, 3 others join BAP

AFTER electing former Senator and Laguna Gov. Joey Lina as its president, the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) yesterday announced the selection of four other sportsmen, led by Tanduay President and COO Wilson Young, to various key positions of the basketball body.

Young was elected vice president for Luzon, Air21 president Angelito Alvarez was voted deputy secretary general, Cristy Ramos was named women's Commission Chairperson and FedEx Express professional player Jerry Codiñera was selected National Capital Region director.

BAP executive vice president and spokesperson Christian Tan, who is also president and owner of Healthy Options Philippines, welcomed the five into the BAP family.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Tan. "These honorable people are successful individuals in their chosen fields of endeavor and we want their own successes to rub off on our BAP organization."

Tan, who presided over an emergency executive board meeting by the BAP at the Manila Hotel Wednesday.

Tan said that with Alvarez and Codiñera, the BAP has further strengthened its bond with the Philippine Basketball Association.

With Young, who sits as board member in several firms of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, the BAP can fortify its link to the University Athletic Association and the Philippine Basketball League as Tanduay is the major backer of the University of the East Warriors and the Air Philippines team.

"Young's entry into the BAP family is a major coup for us," said Tan. "He's brilliant and successful, and is a sportsman of the highest degree. You can never doubt his love for the sport."

Ms Ramos is a former Philippine Olympic Committee president, "whose knowledge of the Olympic movement and spirit are broad and far-reaching." said Tan.

**ADVENTURE RACE:** The 1st Eusebio-Polar Adventure Race will be held on June 18 in various places traversing Marikina, Pasig and Quezon City. Organized by Sports Resources Inc., it will cover orienteering, rappelling, mountain biking, running, swimming, wall climbing, basketball, stair climb and yoga. Present at the MOA signing were (from left) Pe Borja, assistant race director; Doris Dy, SRI product manager, team Montalban's Jong Narciso, race director of the event; and Marne Escotido, SRI product manager. For details, call 6716660.

# Bautista, Bolanos weigh in today

REIGNING WBO Asia Pacific bantam king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Mexican foe Gilberto Bolanos take to the scales today for the official weigh-in at the the ALA Gym in anticipation of their 10-round showdown tomorrow at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex.

GAB-7 officials Celso Miranda and Rolando Mendoza will supervise today's weigh-in, set to start at 12 noon. Contract weight is set at 119 lbs.

Also weighing in today are the fighters who are seeing action in the undercard, including the three new members of the ALA Boys who will be seeing action in their debut fights tomorrow against separate opponents.

Meanwhile, Bautista and Bolanos both saw action in a press workout the other day during the official launching of the Fight Club at the Banilad Town Center.

Bolanos showed good lateral movements and superb defensive tactics in his two-round exhibition against a Japanese fighter while Bautista simply knocked out veteran Edwin Gastador with a body shot in their match-up to the delight of the crowd gathered to see the fighters.

Viva Sports covered the press workout with veteran sports journalist Ronnie Nathanielsz, who flew in from Manila to witness the mammoth event tomorrow featuring the first-ever Mexican fighter to see action in Cebu.

# Ramos captures Tour of Palawan

FINISHING with an hour lead, Jerry Ramos of the Narra Team claimed the Tour of Palawan Governor's Cup on Wednesday at Puerto Princesa City.

Ramos clocked 38 hours, 40 minutes and 8.40 seconds in the 15-lap race covering 1,091 km to bag the P15,000 grand prize.

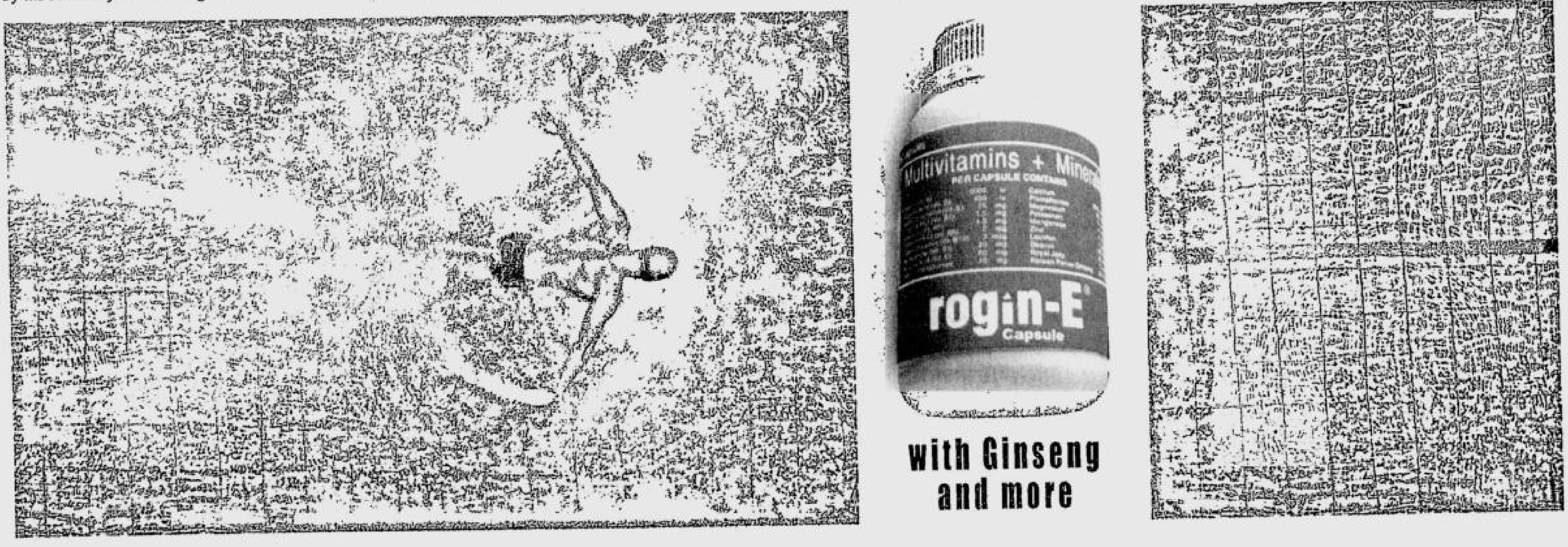
Second-placer Fully Sevidal of Puerto Princesa Team received P10,000, while teammate Sonny Antonio settled for third and P5,000.

Gov. Joel Reyes also awarded Narra Team's Jose Obra with P3,000 for finishing fourth, while fifth-placer Junnie Indangan received P2,000.

Five teams including Narra, Puerto Princesa City, Aborlan, NBI and San Vicente participated in the nine-day event which kicked off on May 24.

The Tour was part of the month-long Baragatan Festival in Palawan in commemoration of the 103rd founding anniversary of the civil government.

The event, organized by Reyes, Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, the provincial board and the Philippine Cycling Association, was recently institutionalized as a regular sports event in the annual Baragatan celebration.



with Ginseng and more

# RP captures 'sepak' overall crown

**MEMBERS** of the Philippine sepak takraw team celebrate their victory with the sport's top supporter, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn (center, in cap), as well as PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna and other officials.

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Philippines opened its campaign with a whimper but ended it with a bang to emerge overall champion Tuesday in the International Invitational Sepak Takraw Championships-2nd Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn Cup at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum.**

With two gold, three silver and two bronze medals, the Filipino sepak takraw bets, powered by Puerto Princesa's Philippines-A squad, ran away with the championship of the event billed as a key pre-Southeast Asian Games tournament.

Vietnam salvaged a second gold medal at the expense of the Manila-based Philippines-B squad in women's doubles Tuesday, but could only muster two bronzes and wound up second overall.

Malaysia, with a 1-1-0 tally, finished third, followed by Myanmar (1-1-0) and South Korea (0-1-2).

"We achieved our goal, which is to win the overall championship," said Hagedorn, sponsor of the other half of the RP squads. "We were also able to show that we are on track in our preparation for the coming Southeast Asian Games."

The Philippines' two golds and two of its three silver medals came in the hoop events Monday, with the men's RP-B squad topping the competition.

The bronze medals came in the women's regu and women's doubles won by RP-A, the team that trains in Puerto Princesa.

"*Umpisa pa lang ito* (This is just the beginning)," said Gen. Mario Tanchanco, president of the organizing Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association. "Our athletes will be training harder to win our first gold medal in the SEA Games."

The young but talented RP-B team of Deseree Autor, Eden Bernardo and Karah Elizabeth Festin bowed to the more experienced Vietnamese, 0-2, in the women's doubles finals Tuesday.

Gelyn Evora, Irene Apdon and Rhea Padrigo, the same crew that mesmerized local fans with difficult kicks in bagging the hoop gold medal, bested guest team South Korea, 2-1, to salvage the doubles bronze medal.

Coach Camilo Apdon has asked Hagedorn to support the team's exposure in an international invitational tournament in South Korea in August.

"This pre-SEA Games is an eye-opener," said Hagedorn. "Our athletes still need international exposure to give them confidence and develop their winning instinct."

## Indian nationals show up FIBL All Star cagers

INDIA'S national team displayed too much firepower to prevail over the FIBL All Star selection, 91-75, in an exhibition game organized by the Filipino-Indian Basketball League at the Rizal Coliseum recently.

The Indians, who finished ninth in last week's 16th Fiba-Asia Champions Cup here, were led by Riyazuddin who fired four triples on the way to a game-high 33 points.

The FIBL squad, composed of star players from the league's teams and coached by former Ginebra player Mike Advani, kept the game close in the first half, but Zuddin ignited a breakaway in the third canto, 76-57.

Mukesh Mohnani led the locals with 27 points highlighted by seven triples. Avin Chulani and Chand Daryanani added 14 and 10, respectively.

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## Ejercito offers PBL use of S. Juan gym

SAN JUAN Mayor JV Ejercito has offered the town's new gymnasium to the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) as venue of its matches.

He said the presence of PBL stars in the town will help promote youth development through sports, which is a cornerstone of his administration.

Ejercito said the new gym will be an ideal venue for the regular season games of the PBL since it can accommodate as many as 5,000 spectators and is easily accessible to basketball fans in Metro Manila.

The construction of the gym was started during the term of former President Joseph Estrada.

A top official of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) has already visited the facility.

**STRIKER** Anton Amistoso breaks through the phalanx of Singaporean defenders.

## Makati FC snatches third place in Thailand bootfest

THE PHILIPPINES' Makati Football Club edged Singapore's Seragoon, 1-0, to bag third place in the annual Manchester United Premier Cup regional finals in Pattaya, Thailand, recently.

The finish was MFC's highest in four years in the international tournament.

It was a tight defensive match in which the first half ended with not a single score from both teams.

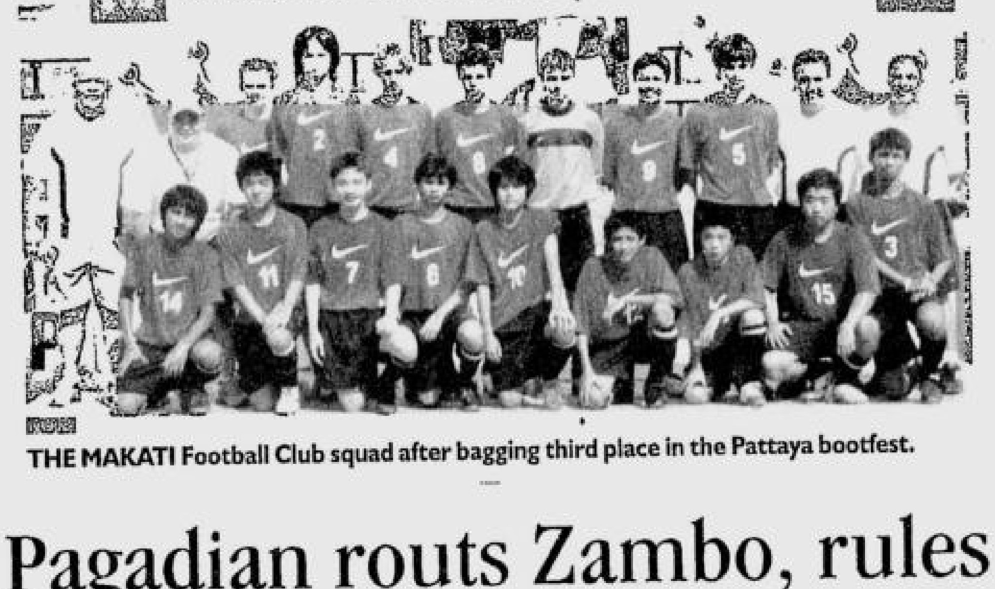
Striker Anton Amistoso cut loose in the 46th minute to boot in the winning goal and stun the Singaporeans who had held the Filipinos to a scoreless standoff in the first half.

Makati FC drew with Malaysia, 1-1, and Singapore, 0-0, before losing to eventual champion Thailand, 8-0, in the eliminations.

"This was our best performance ever (in the tournament)," said MFC president Tomas Lozano. "We lost only to the Thai team, so that's not a bad thing at all."

The Nike-backed MFC eleven, coached by Ignacio Vicente, is made up of Ignacio Vicente, Anders Olsen, Oskar Jamtander, Alejandro Rivera, Rodrigo Lacal, Hikaru Bolt, Rikard Dahle, Todd Hudson, Anton Amistoso, Michael Sharpe, Paolo Cases, Yu Ito, Koki Torada, Korin Nakita, Benjamin Hestevold, Kenshiro Kaneko, Paulus Reyes and Reo Ishiwatari.

MANCHESTER UNITED | PREMIER CUP



**THE MAKATI** Football Club squad after bagging third place in the Pattaya bootfest.

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## Pagadian routs Zambo, rules West Mindanao football tilt

PAGADIAN City clobbered Zamboanga City, 5-0, to top the West Mindanao leg of the PFF-Petron U-17 Championships at the Pagadian football field recently.

A 3rd minute goal by Pagadian striker Leyson Marguia gave the momentum to the hosts, who added to the tally with a 40th minute goal by Yuji Tingcang and a 43rd minute blast by Herbert Calamba.

After the break, Tingcang got his hat trick with goals in the 54th and 77th minutes to lead his team to victory.

Pagadian defeated Dipolog, 7-0, earlier in the week.

The PFF-Petron U-17 Championships, also backed by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, adidas and SuperFerry, was organized by the Pagadian Football Association and ran by tournament commissioner Aldo Obenza of the Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental Football Association.

# GMA 7 suspends Goma

## For using 'vulgar and double-entendre words'

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

IF YOU wondered why actor Richard Gomez was missing last week from GMA 7's Sunday talk show "S Files," which he hosts, it's because he was suspended by the network after the censors board reprimanded him for using "vulgar and double-entendre words."

Gomez will not appear on Sunday, either, since the suspension is for two consecutive weeks. A memorandum from "S-Files" program manager Jose Mari Abacan indicated that Gomez would sit it out for the June 5 and June 12 episodes.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) also warned Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino, hosts of ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," for using "certain language that violated the parental guidance (PG) classification of the program."

Gomez is the second "S-Files" host to be suspended. Last year, Joey Marquez was prohibited from appearing on two episodes also after the MTRCB complained of his use of coarse language. Paolo Bediones and Pia Guanio share hosting chores with Gomez and Marquez.

A report submitted to MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said Gomez uttered words with "double meaning" on the May 22 episode when he commented about Bediones' "The C Show: The Carter Underwear Fashion Show" at the Araneta Coliseum the previous night.

According to the report, Gomez used words like: "Paolo Bediones *rumampang naka*-underwear … *kumalembang*," and "*may nakaturo* …

GMA 7/ A2-4

**The bride fainted!**
Liz Almoro-Revillame tells INQUIRER Entertainment what happened. Story on page A2-2.

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LAS PIÑAS

Michael Vartan in "Monster in Law"

## Michael Vartan: From *Alias* to *Monster in Law*

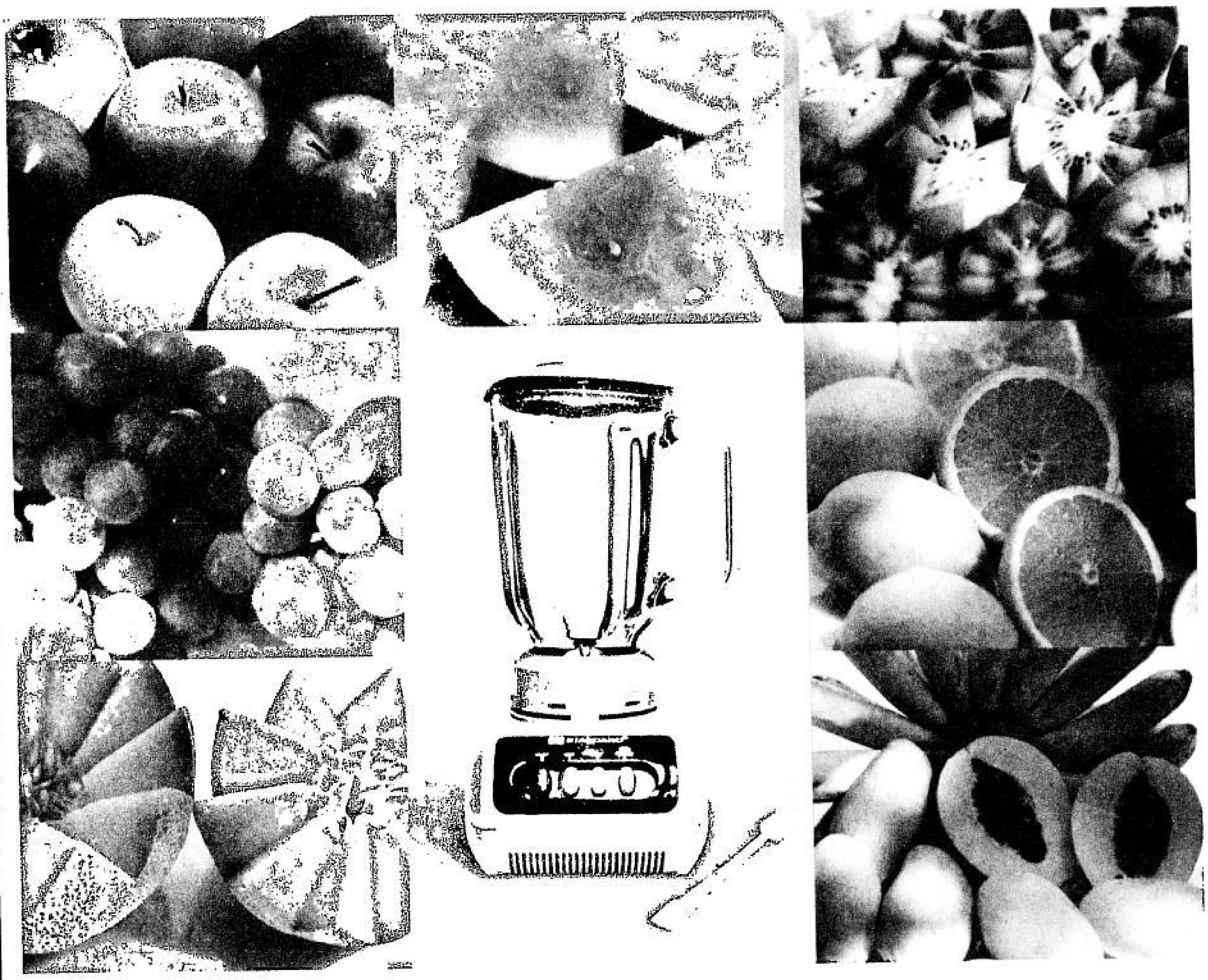
by Paul Fischer, Los Angeles, CA

While Michael Vartan is committed to at least another season for Alias, he is keeping his feet immersed in movies, playing the romantic other half of Jennifer Lopez in the #1 comedy hit **Monster in Law**.

Vartan says he was attracted to Monster in Law, because of the two women who were already attached. "*Yeah, it really had to do with Jane and Jennifer - I just could not turn down an opportunity to work with those two icons of the business. Also, on a personal side, romantic comedies are fun to make,*" says Vartan .

Vartan has ready to be pleased with himself, now that he has discovered success on one of TV's coolest shows, but the grounded actor, says that he remains surprised by it all. "*Yes, that is a continual source of surprise to me. I've been doing it for a long time, but I have to think, wow that's pretty amazing, that I keep working somehow and I keep fooling them all. It never gets old, getting the call that you've landed a role or that you've been chosen for a specific part. It's part of the thrill, as dark and depressing as the times that you don't work and that you're waiting for the phone to ring, that's how exciting it can be. So, it definitely is a roller coaster kind of business and that's why I think the level head is key.*"

ADVT.



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# Final plus points for aspiring child stars

*(Conclusion)*

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

OUR pieces on child stardom have elicited questions from parents of juvenile talents who want to get a more comprehensive view, a formula for success in show biz, if you will, for their cute and ambitious kids. OK, here's the full lay of the land:

Aside from **motivation**, a **winning look** and genuine talent, an aspiring child performer needs to possess **reading ability** and **a good memory; verbal skills, natural expressive abilities, imagination, independence, well-rounded interests,** and **the ability to handle stress and rejection.**

That's a tall order, but show biz veterans agree that show biz is such a demanding field, especially for vulnerable child talents, that only the well-prepared aspirant can expect to succeed without being warped.

Reading ability and a good memory are essential for the young performer to be competitive in working on scripts and memorizing dialogue.

Verbal skills are needed because, in some instances, especially in less than professional productions, child actors are asked to ad-lib.

Thus, young performers sometimes have to fend for themselves to entertain an audience, so the ability to think and talk in a sensible and diverting manner is an important asset to have.

Sadly, many child talents are wrongly trained to become such rote performers that all they can do is follow instructions.

The result is a dry, unappealing performance, and dissatisfied directors make a mental note not to cast children with poor verbal skills in their forthcoming projects.

Natural expressive abilities are needed because performers have to go beyond talking, and express themselves in more emotional and visual terms.

Young talents who are dependent on the written and spoken word are left far behind by other children who can express themselves entertainingly and empathetically in different ways.

Imagination is key to a youthful performance, because children are expected to have a sense of wonder that enriches the material they're given and takes it to a higher level. Often, however, children are too strictly trained and directed that they aren't given the space they need to imagine and create.

That's why some child talents' performances are unsatisfying, because they act like little adults, rather than the imaginative, expressive children they are.

In line with this, a child talent needs to be independent of his adult mentors. This seems to be a contradiction, because actors are supposed to follow their directors' instructions.

But we should understand that a good director's notes are meant to provide only the parameters of the actor's performance, and a talent needs to exercise independence in fleshing out his performance for himself.

A child actor also needs to be interested in fields apart from performing. This is because a good performance should be informed by different inputs and insights, aside from the basic motivation to entertain. The performer who isn't interested in a wide range of fields comes off as limited and dull.

Finally, child talents should be prepared to take the stressful show biz environment, and the less than welcoming reception that newcomers sometimes have to face.

This can be difficult for young psyches to withstand, so they have to be helped by their adult mentors learn how not to take the rejection personally.

We trust that prospective young stars' mentors will take these pointers to heart, to increase their chances for success in the highly competitive entertainment field.

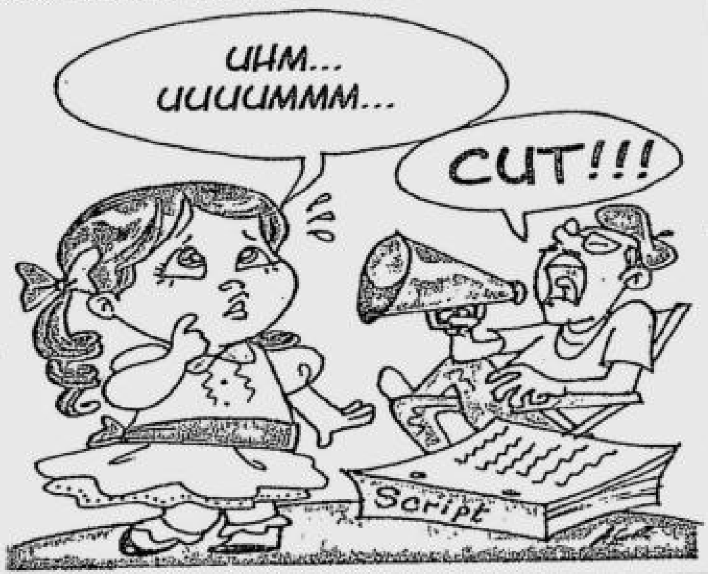
## 'Science of Star Wars'

ON DISCOVERY channel last June 5, the three-part series, "Science of Star Wars" explored the legacy of "Star Wars" on our lives, and the future, in terms of changing technology and inventions.. The series will be replayed on these dates:

June 13 at 6 p.m. and June 15 at 10 a.m., "Man and Machine." Right now, robots can clean the house, walk the dog, etc. Soon, droids will replace astronauts on dangerous spacewalks and may even act as flying R2D2s to people living in space.

Today at 6 a.m., June 14 at 6 p.m. and June 16 at 10 a.m., "Space Cowboys": What will be the new hot rods of the future? Hywire cars that use a skateboard chassis are here today. How soon will we be driving our own hovercrafts to work?

June 11 at 6 a.m. and June 15 at 6 p.m., "War Weapons and the Force": We haven't yet made a clone army, but we're getting there!


UHM... UUUUMMM...
CUT!!!
Script

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# Willie weds

## *The bride faints, the reception commences with the theme of a game show, and the groomsmen wish for their buddy to not screw up this time*

**By Nini Valera**
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

**LIZ and Willie "Wowowee!"**

THE BRIDE fainted during "The Lord's Prayer" and had to be revived before the nuptials proceeded.

It was the wedding of TV game show host Willie Revillame and former beauty queen Liz Almoro at the Santuario de San Jose in Forbes Park, Makati last Tuesday.

Liz, three months pregnant, explained the fainting spell to INQUIRER Entertainment during the reception held at the NBC Tent at the Fort. "I couldn't breathe," she said. "[my] waist was [being] pinched by my gown (designed by Paul Cabral)."

### No show

Otherwise, the ceremony went without a hitch, even if some of the sponsors—a total of 30 pairs—and about half of the 10 best men failed to show up.

It started late, like most celebrity weddings—this one by about 40 minutes. The bride marched solo, followed by her parents, former Laguna Congressman Roy Almoro and Clavel Bendana. The rites were traditional, except for the long photo session that followed.

The officiating priest, Father Antonio Ma. Rosales, admonished Willie toward the end of the service: "Willie, *huwag ka pasaway* (Don't be incorrigible)."

The couple's march from the altar took forever, with Willie and Liz shaking hands and kissing well-wishers along the aisle. About 50 of these well-wishers were obviously Willie's fans.

"Wowowee! Wowowee!" they chanted.

"Willie, *pakamay naman* (let me shake your hand)," pleaded Arturo, who claimed to be the comedian's longtime admirer.

Willie willingly obliged and unwittingly started the hand-shaking session.

At the reception, John Estrada and Liz's close friend Bianca introduced themselves as the hosts on a makeshift stage, which showcased a giant wedding cake designed by Heny Sison.

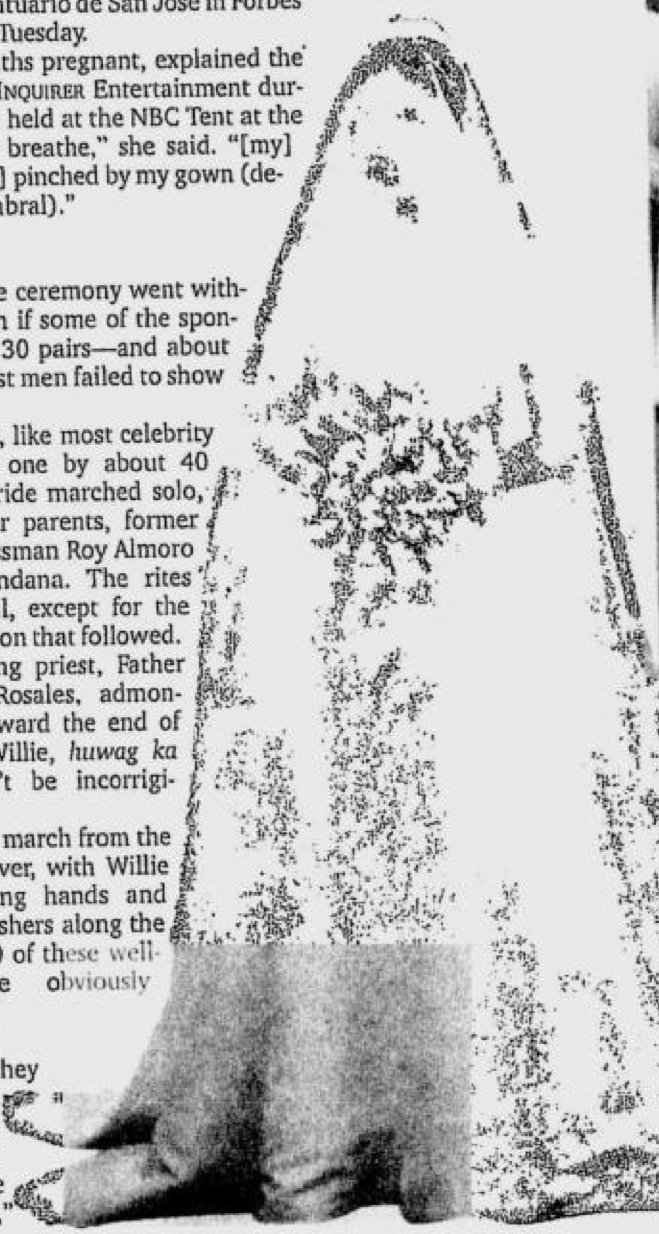
John said he was pinch-hitting for one of the best men, Edu Manzano, who was supposed to be the host, but did not show up; Bianca said she was prepared for Edu, but would willingly take on John. The guests began to wonder what was keeping Willie and Liz.

### Hungry guests

"Maybe Willie brought Liz to the hospital," said one.

"Maybe, we should start eating without them," said another who was apparently hungry.

As John was running out of inanities to regale the guests with, and just as everybody thought the couple had decided not to come to their own wedding party, Willie and Liz walked into the hall to the tune of the "Wowowee" theme song played by a string ensemble. It was about 6 p.m.



**"PINCHING" gown, beautiful bride**

Some 30 minutes later, the couple made the rounds of guests, posing for the customary pictures.

"Happy," said Willie, when asked to comment by INQUIRER Entertainment.

"Very happy," enthused Liz.

There wasn't going to be a honeymoon, Willie said, because he had to work. But the couple and some members of the bride's family are set to accompany Willie to the US next weekend for a special telecast of "Wowowee."

"I'll be there for about five days only," said Willie. "I have to return for work. But Liz and her sisters will stay behind."

By this time, about 20,000 people had gathered in front of ABS-CBN, where giant screens had been erected to show a live coverage of the wedding and reception. As early as lunch time, about 7,000 people were partaking of food that Willie's show had prepared "to make them feel like they're part of the wedding."

A tipsy John Estrada and a giddy Bianca called the best men—those who showed up—to offer the couple a toast and some words of wisdom. For a few minutes, the stage crackled with testosterone as Richard Gomez, Aga Mulach, Edgar Mortiz, Rey Reyes, Robert Vidanes and Efren Siyap roasted the groom.

**KRIS Aquino, Aga Muhlach, Gretchen Barretto**

Aga's spiel about telling Willie everything he needed to know but already knew echoed the sentiments of most of the groom's friends: "Don't screw up this time."

Then it was the matrons-of-honor's turn to give their parting shot.

Liz's best friend, Gigi Uson, who looked like Sandara Park, said she was anti-Willie at the start, but that she relented after she saw Willie "in action."

### Lucky Liz

Speaking in Filipino, she said: "I'm eating my words to Liz. She is lucky to have found Willie."

Bianca then summoned her co-host back on stage so they could call the couple for the customary cake cutting, champagne drinking, bouquet throwing, garter tossing ... John, who had apparently imbibed too much red wine, began hitting on Liz's mother, Clavell, saying, "Willie, you might be my stepson soon."

Clavell, resplendent in a yellow gown, glowed unabashedly.

Of course, this part will not be shown when ABS-CBN airs the wedding special called "Para Sa 'Kin ay Ikaw" on June 19.

Among the sponsors who showed up were: Vice President and Mrs. Noli de Castro, Sen. And Mrs. Bong Revilla, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, socialite Baby Arenas, Dr. Viki Belo, Dolphy (at the Church but without ZsaZsa), Mr. Eugenio Lopez III, Eddie Garcia, Charo Santos-Concio.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was represented by his younger brother Iggy. Rudy Fernandez was a proxy for Phillip Salvador.

---

# Leo Valdez: I give every audience what it deserves–my best

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

**SHOW TIME**

HAVING made it big worldwide for portraying The Engineer in the hit musical "Miss Saigon," Leo Valdez wants to "leave a significant mark" in the local entertainment industry.

"The show I did with Verni Varga last Valentine's Day encouraged me to sing more of the songs I like. What's more interesting is that other people also appreciate them," Leo told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview last Tuesday.

Because "people loved seeing us perform together," Leo said, he and Verni are doing "The Engineer and The Vamp Series II," at Onstage in Greenbelt 1, Makati City, today and tomorrow.

"I will be singing more Filipino songs," said Leo, stressing that a medley of the songs "Kahit na," "Ikaw lang ang Mamahalin," "Sana'y Maulit Muli and "Mahawi Man ang Ulap" will be part of his repertoire.

After the show, Leo flies to London for another five-month stint as The Engineer. He will be back in November, possibly to record an album. "We're still gathering materials for an all-Tagalog CD, or for an album on musical theater songs," Leo said.

**What's the downside of being a hit performer abroad?**

I miss home. I miss family. But then it's something that I wish all of my colleagues could experience.

**Do you still get excited about performing The Engineer?**

I'm so blessed, and there's no other way for me to do it but to give it my best.

I give the audience what they expect of me, sometimes more. Yes, I perform every night, but always with a new audience. Each one deserves everything that I can give.

My challenge is to make the audience understand that The Engineer is scheming and manipulative, but that he also wants to be loved, just like everyone else.

**What do you do off-stage?**

Enjoy! Gimmick to the max, especially during my last two years in Britain. Normally, after a show, I go to a bar and talk to guests who watched the show. I go home very late because I can't sleep until 3 a.m.

When you work with Cameron Macintosh, the company provides you a home. I tell you, this company is generous. I stayed three and a half months in a $15,000 suite at the Peninsula in Hong Kong. In London, I stayed in Mayfair, one of the best places there. The other time I was there, I stayed at the end of Park Lane. On my own I don't think I could afford those places.

**Was it difficult at the start?**

Lea Salonga blazed the trail for Filipinos in London: *Kapag Pinoy, magaling.*

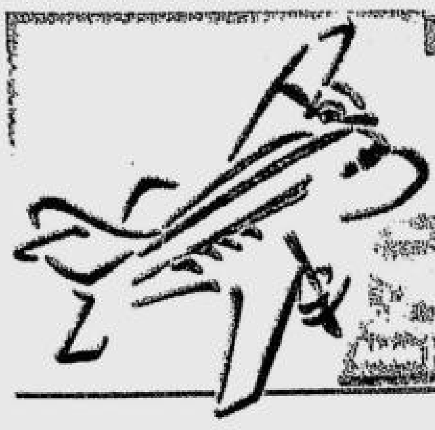
Officially, in London, I was the fourth actor to play The Engineer. I came in after seasoned theater actors. Back in 1994, I was pretty tough on myself. I kept saying, "My God! This is Drury Lane, where Julie Andrews, Catherine Zeta Jones and all the other stars first performed. If I don't do well, *nakakahiya.*" So I didn't go out much. I concentrated on learning my parts. It backfired. I came out stiff.

After that season, Macintosh called me for Sydney. I was more relaxed there. My performance was better. I realized then that the more relaxed I was, the better my performance became.

That's why days before my Valentine show with Vernie, I already knew it would turn out well.

*("The Engineer and The Vamp Series II" is directed by Archie Castillo and produced by Golden Earth Events and Marketing Corporation.)*

LEO VALDEZ



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# Daddy's Day at The Bellevue Hotel

WOULDN'T it be nice to give something other than a tie for dad this Father's Day? On June 19, daddy's brood troops to The Bellevue Hotel for a most memorable Father's Day tribute. For only P690++, make it your turn to give the most deserving man in your life a sumptuous lunch or dinner to remember, only at the South of Metro Manila's hotel of choice - The Bellevue Hotel.

The Bellevue knows family celebrations are of primary importance to its guests, that's why this occasion calls for something extra special. Apart from a one-of-a-kind international buffet lineup including dishes such as US Chuck Roll with Gravy, Lechon de Leche, Veal Parmigiana, Roast Porkloin with Pommery Mustard, Seafood Thermidore and Lamb with Mint Sauce, fathers availing the promo are treated to amazing giveaways. During brunch, the little ones also get to enjoy kiddie entertainment with puppet shows, face painting and balloon twisting. The Bellevue is where family fun is at! Call 771-8181 for inquiries.

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### RIO BAR CAFÉ'S FRIDAY NIGHT GIMMICK

**Come party with us! 'Like Humans Do' Band bids farewell with a concert at the Rio Bar Café of The Executive Plaza Hotel. This cool acoustic band started with five guys, now they are seven with one lady in the group. They are raring to conquer Japan in July. Catch them before they leave. This great event is scheduled this Friday, June 10. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are priced at P225 inclusive of an appetizer (Baked Mussels or Sisig or Stir-fry Hotdogs) with a choice drink of San Miguel Beer or iced tea or juice or softdrink. For reservations, kindly call 523-1000.**

# 'A Day with Dad' celebration at Dusit Hotel Nikko

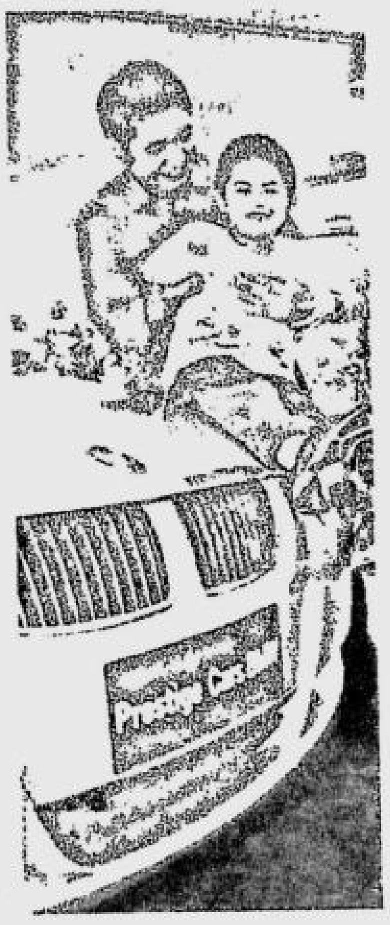
THIS June, Dusit Hotel Nikko will honor fathers by providing them with the ultimate treat on Father's Day.

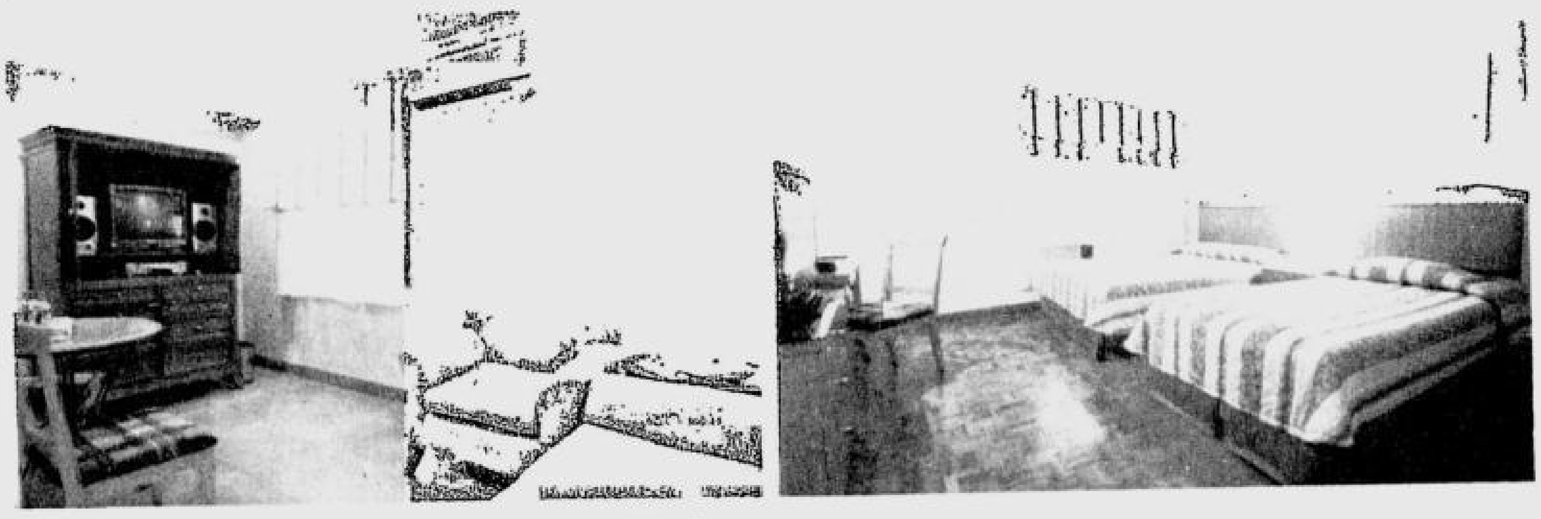
Come June 18 and 19, fathers staying in the hotel and those with a minimum food purchase worth P2,000 in any of the hotel's F&B outlets, will experience and feel the "sheer driving pleasure" of the latest BMW automobile. They would be treated to a BMW test drive within the vicinity of the hotel and will receive a special gift courtesy of Prestige Cars BMW if they avail of this exclusive experience. Moreover, in-house guests and diners would get the chance to bring the car home for a weekend drive with the family during the raffle. And it does not end there, free Discover Scuba (confined water sessions) and snorkeling lessons will be made available for fathers and their kids in the hotel's pool area as conducted by the expert dive instructors of Eureka Dive.

On Father's Day, treat dad to a sumptuous meal offered in the hotel's authentic Asian specialty restaurants where he can also get the chance to win exciting perks and freebies. Aside from the special treats mentioned, diners will also get the chance to win in the instant raffle a Discover Scuba course and Fun Dive Gift Certificates at Punta Fuego courtesy of Eureka Dive and BMW Lifestyle items. Instant raffle prizes from the "pick-a-prize" bowl include one (1) week free trial of the gym facilities of Clark Hatch Fitness Center and freebies from Marks & Spencer among others.

"A Day with Dad" special weekend rate starts at P5,800 nett. Likewise, its much celebrated Asian specialty restaurants: Benkay, Benjarong, Thien Duong, The Café, and Fiesta San Miguel will offer special Father's Day menus guaranteed to satisfy dads' appetite.

For inquiries on room packages and dining reservations, please call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.





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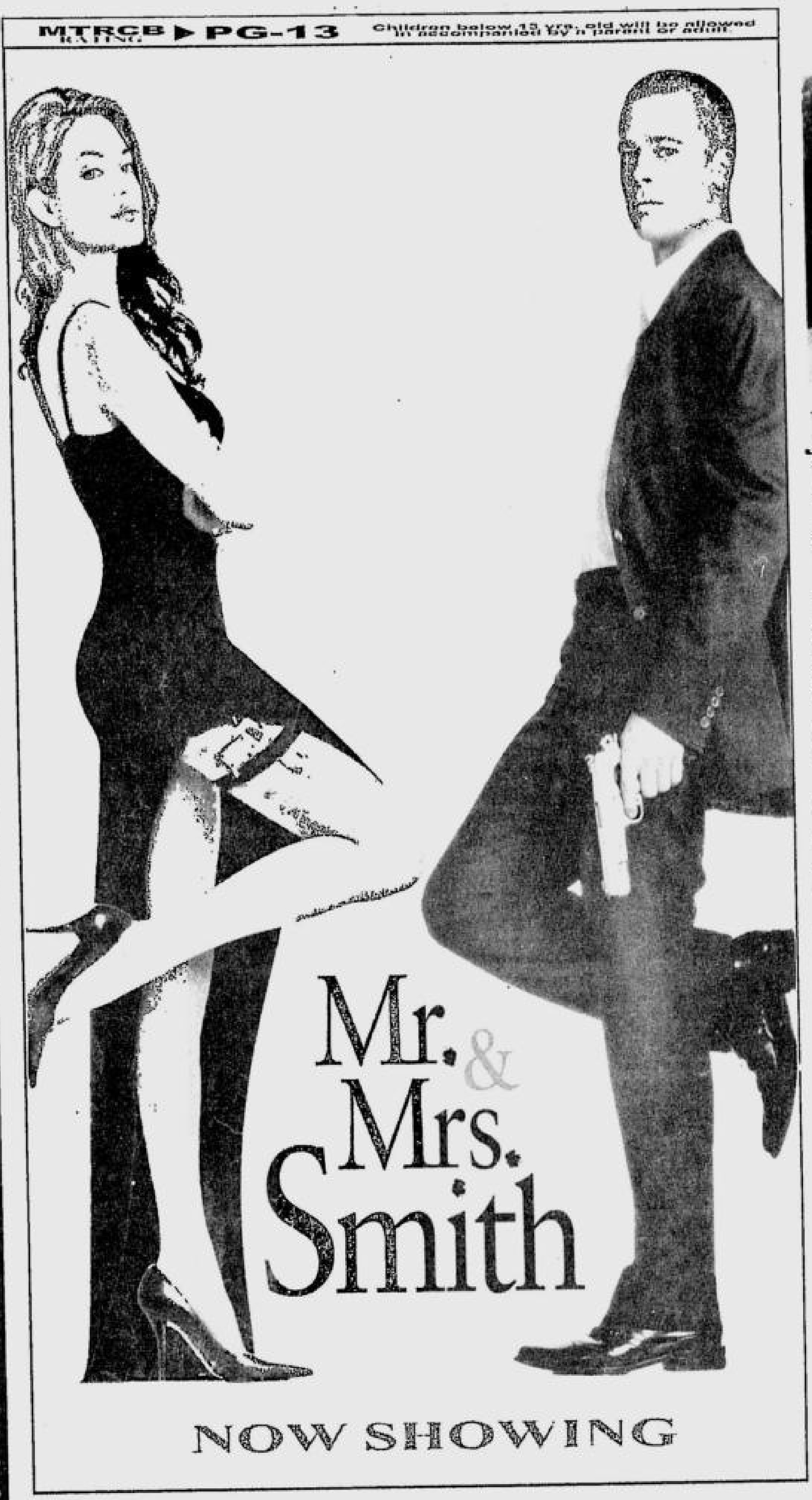
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TAKE FIVE

# J Love Hewitt, sleepless

"IF ONLY" is a breakthrough film for Jennifer Love Hewitt, 26, lead star and producer.

**Are you open to nudity?**

I don't like seeing myself naked.

**What's your favorite movie of all time?**

"Sabrina." Audrey Hepburn is such a hottie.

**What is the hardest part of the movie for you?**

Pretending not to know what was going to happen next.

**You've been running around promoting it..**

I have slept exactly four hours in the last two days. I'm feeling pretty good. Delirious, but pretty good.

# GMA 7 suspends Goma

From page A2-1

*pag* side-view *mo*."

Another report pointed to Abunda and Aquino as using "objectionable words" on the April 10 episode of "The Buzz." The report claimed Abunda was referring to Aquino's "private parts" when he said "*napakalambot at napakaganda*."

In the show, the report added, Aquino brushed her chest against Abunda and when the latter reacted, Aquino said "*Anong malambot? Si Boy nagiging lalaki na*."

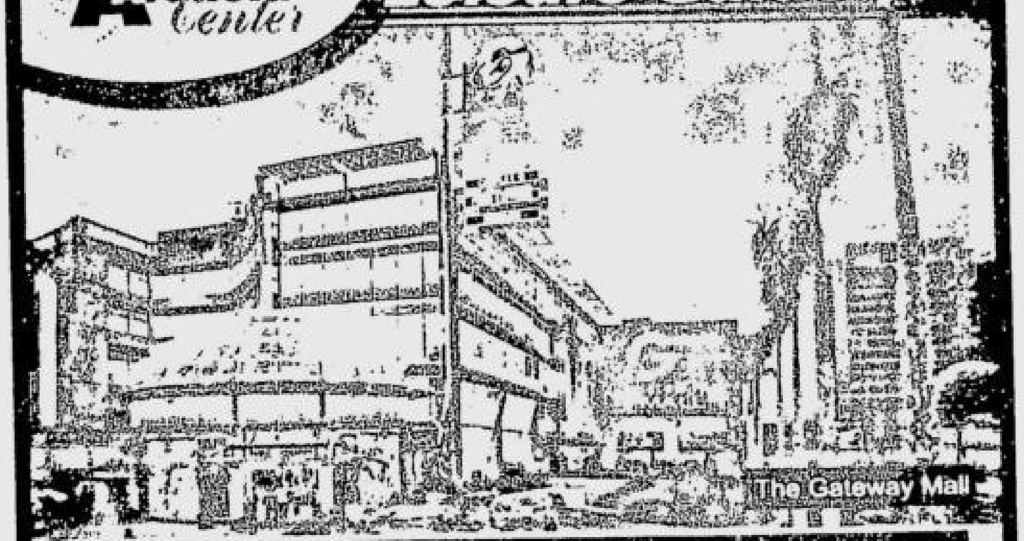
The MTRCB also complained about the "Chona Chikadora" segment on "S-Files" aired April 17 and 24. It said the segment "appeared to be objectionable" on account of some "foul" words used, like "*binenta puri*," "*jowa* turned call boy," and "*nangungulekta ng* pictures, *hubo't-hubad*."

GMA 7 and ABS-CBN executives met with MTRCB Hearing and Adjudication committee members on June 3 to discuss the complaints.

Abacan's statement, post-dated June 7 said "the program shall not use footage or videos depicting explicit sex or violence."

In her letter to the MTRCB dated June 6, ABS-CBN senior vice president for TV production Socorro Vidanes said the hosts would be "directed" to avoid using suggestive language and to wear clothes appropriate for the time slot.

Vidanes also assured the board that the program would no longer air "sex videos," or "any video footage of sensitive matters."



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PREMONITION
12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
COACH CARTER
12:40 / 3:00
SHUTTER
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00
STAR WARS - EPISODE III
12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30
MR & MRS SMITH
12:20 / 1:00 / 1:40 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 4:30
6:00 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:50 / 9:30 / 10:10
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
MR & MRS SMITH

3RD INTERNATIONAL PINK FILM FESTIVAL: June 3 - 12, 2005
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ALI MALL CINEMAS
① SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
② MR & MRS SMITH
12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45
③ SIN CITY
12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
④ GRACIA
12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
⑤ SHUT UP & KISS ME
12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
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4:45pm Sta Lucia vs. Shell 7:30pm Coca Cola vs Winner of Alaska -SMB
June 14, 16 & 18 2005 WORLD SLASHER CUP INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY
HILLSONG - REUBEN MORGAN LIVE
June 11, Sat. 4-6pm Worship Seminar 7-9pm Worship
SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT
June 24 Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
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EXHIBITS: The 7th Philippine Eagle Week takes off at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall. Featuring the Eagle Eyes Photo Exhibit from June 6 to 12. Plus, FREE wildlife lectures, fun games and face painting on June 11 & 12.

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# A Mel Brooks gab fest on 'The Producers' set

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—**Mel Brooks**, in addition to being our time's greatest wits, also has good taste in women.

During a recent INQUIRER visit to the New York set of the film version of the hit musical "The Producers," Mel talked about why **Nicole Kidman** would have been great for the role of Ulla, the Swedish bombshell: "It would have been nice to hang around with her."

The comic genius behind such movies as "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "History of the World Part I" delivered that in a deadpan manner. When Nicole twisted her knee and had to beg off from the Ulla role, Mel recounted, "Someone said, how about **Uma Thurman**? She is [partly] Swedish and she is tall. And she has va-va-voom (gesturing to his chest). No arguments. She's got a lot more va-va-voom than a lot of people. So we asked Uma."

Mel is turning 79 this month but can still regale visiting reporters with stories like nobody else in show business. He continued, "So now, Uma and I are hanging around. She's pretty good. I sit next to her on the set. It's taking a long time. She's so much taller than I am."

## Pinay assistant

We got to talk later with Uma (who sings and dances for the first time in a movie), her co-stars **Matthew Broderick** and **Nathan Lane**, and director **Susan Stroman**. But Mel stole the thunder from these four talents.

Watching the award-winning director, actor, screenwriter, comedian, producer and lyricist from the sidelines was a young, green-eyed pretty girl named **Jennifer Yale**, his assistant. Despite Jennifer's green eyes, I thought she could be part Filipina. I was right. When I was introduced to her later, she told me she was related to the Andal clan of Balayan, Batangas. But she added that she was also part German and part Polish and that she has been Mel's assistant for over five years.

Although Mel talked about "hanging around" with Nicole and Uma, he is, of course, happily married to the beautiful actress, **Anne Bancroft**. They've been married since 1964—quite a record in Hollywood. *This column was written before Bancroft died on Tuesday (Wednesday, Manila time.—Ed).*

Uma, the object of Mel's adoring chatter at the brand new Steiner Studios on the Brooklyn waterfront, laughed when a reporter teased her about what Mel had done for her and what she had done for him. "I don't know what I've done for him," quipped the actress, her blonde, curly locks shining against the afternoon sun filtering through the window (the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges are visible). "I'm just playing my part. He is lovely. He comes virtually every day. He is so excited. He is completely engaged in the process."

Mel, understandably, is deeply involved with this movie production because "The Producers" has been his baby since its two previous incarnations. "The Producers'" quirky, three-pronged life began as a feature film in 1967, for which Mel won an Oscar Best Screenplay award. The movie inspired the Broadway musical version of the same name which became a hit (the film was not) and won for Mel, as the show's producer, the 2001 Tony Best Musical award. And now, Mel is producing the film adaptation of the musical.

We were treated to the first peek at the film in progress. I couldn't take my eyes off **Will Ferrell** in lederhosen, prancing around with Matthew and Nathan. Based on the 10 minutes of takes shown to us, Will, as a wacky Nazi playwright, stole those scenes. "He's crazier than we thought," Mel said of the comedian.

## Broadway replica

After the preview and interviews with Mel and Uma, who gave me a startling (at first) and funny sample of the intentionally silly Swedish accent that she developed for the role, we headed downstairs to watch Matthew and Nathan film some scenes. The humongous sound stage enabled the production crew to build a full-size replica of Broadway's Shubert Alley. Theater marquees screamed in bright lights the titles of real shows from the late 1950s, including "The Sound of Music." A newsstand, trees and Checker cabs (in one scene filmed this afternoon, Matthew hailed and got into one) completed the streetscape.

Only one title up on a marquee, "Funny Boy," was not a real show from that era. In "The Producers," "Funny Boy" is the latest in a series of flops of theater mogul Max Bialystock (Nathan). Bialystock and his shy accountant (Matthew) come up with a racket to over-finance a sure-fire flop and then run away with the surplus budget. To their surprise, however, the show, "Springtime for Hitler," is a hit.

## Susan's tale

After a few takes, **Susan Stroman**, who also directed the Broadway musical version and who won a Tony for Best Director (only the second woman to win this award), joined us for a chat in the Astor Bar, realistically re-created down to the real receipts and peanuts. Susan's career-making success with "The Producers" is tinged with a poignant tale. Her husband, **Mike Ockrent**, was going to direct the Broadway version but he died of leukemia as rehearsals got underway. Mel and his cohorts asked Susan to step in and the rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

Of Mel, Susan said: "Mel is here every day and has his producer hat on. The biggest advice he gave me is, you can do whatever you want—just don't spend a penny. And there has been a couple of times when I wished, if I can have one more joke here, the scene would be perfect. I asked Mel to give me a joke and he did, just like that (she snapped her fingers). So it's great to have the writer on the set, especially if the writer is Mel Brooks."

Settling back into the room where we did our earlier interviews, I jokingly asked Nathan if he and Matthew weren't tired of each other already (after starring together on the show's Broadway run for an extended time, here they were again for the film version; in fall, they will reunite as "The Odd Couple" in a revival). "Oh, no," replied Nathan. "Obviously we enjoy working with each other."

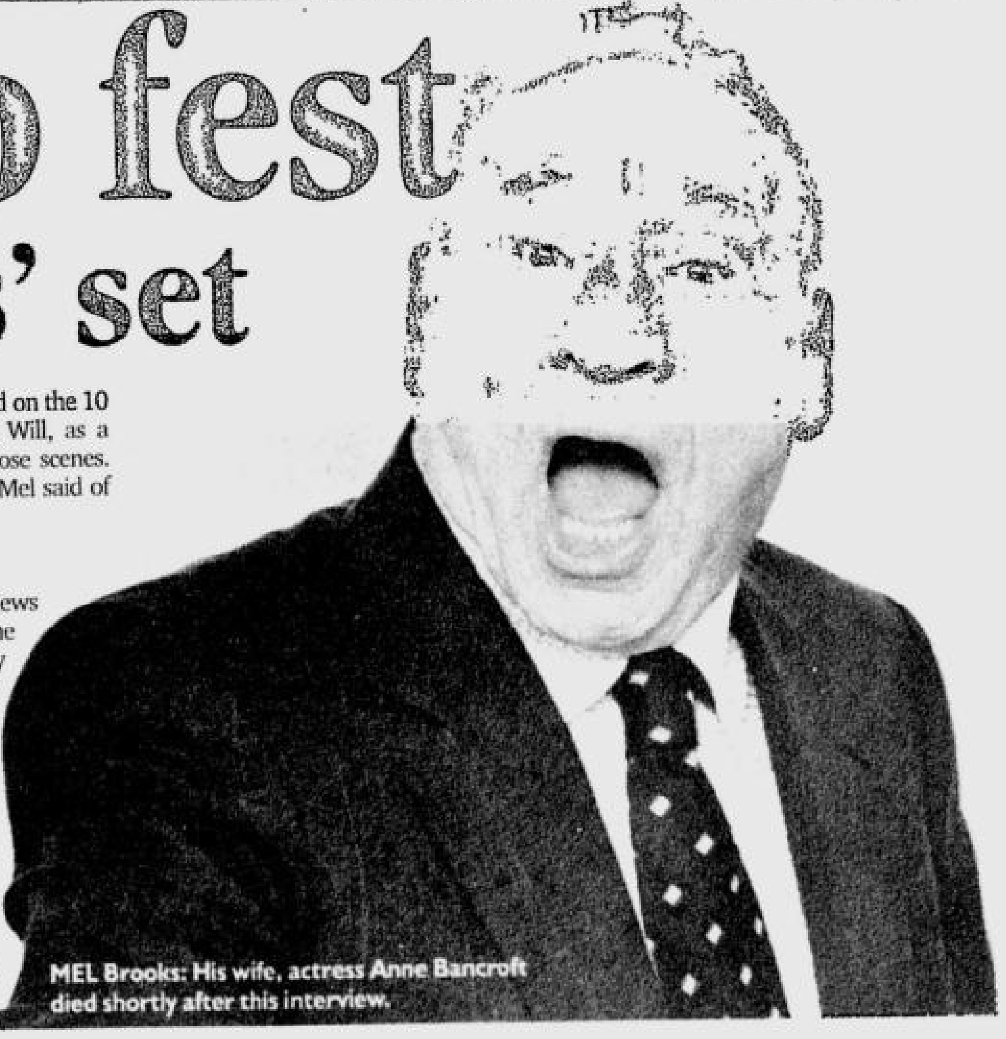
## Mr. Parker

When Matthew joined us later, I asked him the same question. The actor, also known as the husband of "Sex and the City's" **Sarah Jessica Parker**, smiled and, while looking at Nathan, asked me, "Well, what did he say?"

After we all laughed, Matthew, looking even more baby-faced in a blue T-shirt, quipped, "I don't want to like him more than he likes me—very awkward."

But it wasn't awkward for Nathan. He simply sat there, breaking into his familiar bemused smile.

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)*



MEL Brooks: His wife, actress Anne Bancroft died shortly after this interview.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, June 10 2005

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | | Showbiz No. 1 (4.25PM) | Yu-Gi-Oh! (5.10PM) | TV Patrol World (5.35PM) | | Meteor Garden Full Edition | | Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit | Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin | Memories Of Bali | Opds | Kampanerang Kuba | 24 | | | Insider |
| ABC 5 | | | EZ Shop | | PBA | | | | Sentro | PBA | | | | | Big News | Mutya 6/10: The Real Story | | ESPN Golf | |
| GMA 7 | Saang Sulok Ng Langit | Now and Forever | Glass Shoes | One Piece | Flame Of Recca | Full House | | 24 Oras | | Darna | | Encantadia | Extra Challenge | | All About Eve | Bubble Gang | | | Saksi |
| RPN 9 | | Metro TV Shopping | Defenders Of The Earth | Hey Arnold! | As Told By Ginger | Wild Thornberries | Sponge Bob | The Insider | Tough Enough | 7 Days | | Temptation Island 3 | | The OC | | Newswatch Now | Aids Awareness | | |
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| Nickelodeon | Blues Clues | Rugrats | The Fairly Odd Parents | SpongeBob SquarePants | All That | Are You Afraid of the Dark? | 100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd | The Amanda Show | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | Fairly Odd Parents | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | Yakkity Yak | Chalkzone | Rocket Power | Hey Arnold! | The Wild Thornberrys | The Angry Beavers | Rugrats |
| MYX | MYX Firsts | Urban MYX | MYX Backtrax | Pop MYX | My MYX | Take 5 | OPM MYX | Mellow MYX | Rock MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Pop MYX | Urban MYX | Club MYX | Star MYX | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | OPM MYX | Mellow MYX |
| ETC | | Simple Life | Knock First | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Elimidate | Change of Heart | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | Arrested Development | Significant Others | Joan Of Arcadia | | Average Joe | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | X-Men Evolution | Spiderman | The Batman | Justice League | Wazzup Wazzup | | Barkada Nights | | | | News Central | Oprah | | Just Shoot Me |
| AXN | | The Contender | | | | Gensomaden Saiyuki | Gensomaden Saiyuki | The Associates | | Boomtown | | WRC 2005: Rally XS | E Buzz | Andromeda (Season IV) | | | | | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | Hollywood Squares | Home Improvement | Buffy The Vampire Slayer | | The Simpsons | The Drew Carey Show | Star News Asia | Friends | TNA Wrestling | | Totally Outrageous Behavior | Weird TV | Police Stop | | Friends | Totally Outrageous Behavior |
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| HBO | | | Pure Country (3.35PM) | | | | Sabrina (5.25PM) | | | | Quicksand | | | Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade | | | | Half Past Dead (11.05PM) | |
| Star Movies | Nemesis Game (AKA Nemesis 4) (2.35PM) | | | The Horse Whisperer (4.15PM) | | | | | | Brown Sugar (7.05PM) | | | | Van Wilder: Party Liason | | | Cold Creek Manor (10.15PM) | | |
| Cartoon Network | Scooby-Doo Show | The All New Popeye Show | | Tom & Jerry Show | The Woody Woodpecker Show | Ed, Edd N Eddy | Codename: Kids Next Door | Dexter's Laboratory | Toon Pick | Gundam Wing | Shaman King | The Looney Tunes Show | | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Courage The Cowardly Dog | Time Squad | Thundercats | He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe | Gundam Seed |
| Disney Channel | Mr Bean: The Animated Series | Totally Spies | The Sleepover Club | Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny | Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr Bean: The Animated Series | House Of Mouse | Fox And The Hound | | | My Wife And Kids | That's So Raven | America's Funniest Home Video | According To Jim | Recess: All Growed Down | |
| Cinemax | | Little Women (3.15PM) | | | | She's Out Of Control (5.15PM) | | | | City Of Angels | | | | Silent Rage | | | The Core (10.40PM) | | |
| Hallmark Channel | Who's The Boss | Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye | | HCA: The Fairytaler | Sesame Street | | Mad About You | Who's The Boss | The Nanny | Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye | | Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye | | Almost Salinas | | | Wife Swap (10.35PM) | | Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye |
| Discovery Channel | | Power Zone | | | | Wild Discovery | | The Miracle Of Love | | Monster Garage | | American Chopper | | Raising the Mammoth | | Deadly Reputations | | Crime Night | |
| MTV Philippines | | | Hangin Out at MTV | | MTV Get Spotted | | MTV Classic (Ver 2) | | ITVNN: They Wanted A Famous Face | MTV Dives | | Newlyweds | Wanna Come In | Faking the Video | Laguna Beach | On Board at MTV | MTV Screen | VH1 Video Collection | |
| Sports Plus | | | French Open '05 Quarterfinals | | | | Nopi Tunervision | NCAA C'ship Final | | | | Monster Jam | | FMX | | Inside the PGA | | | |

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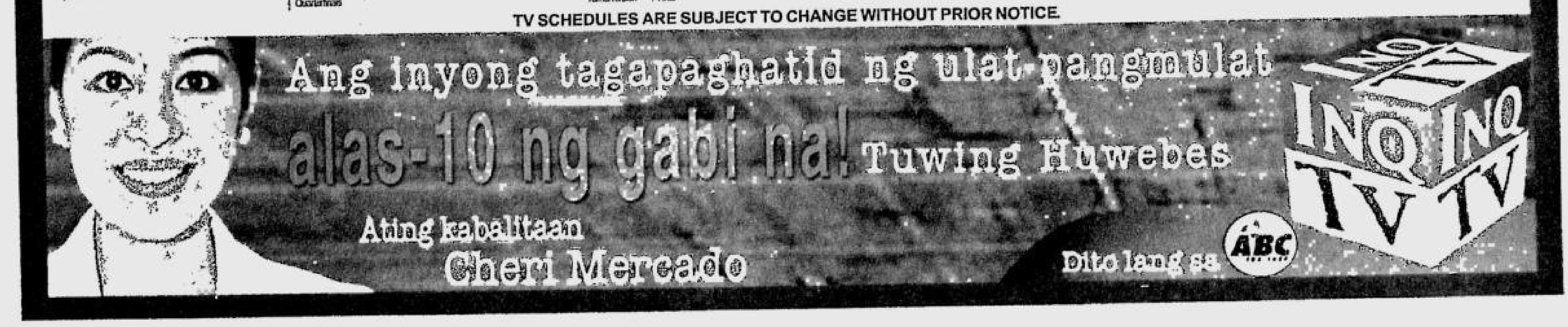

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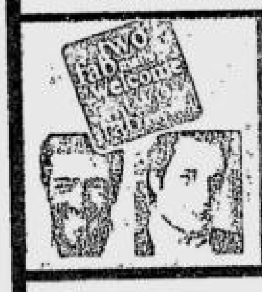

Meet Kyan Douglas and Thom Filicia of Queer Eye for the Straight Guy on June 11, 2005 at the Alabang Town Center and Greenbelt 3!

[illegible]

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| | 2 MR. & MRS. SMITH | | |
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| | 4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME | | |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 MADAGASCAR | | |
| | 2 A LOT LIKE LOVE | | |
| | 3 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH | 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 4 SIN CITY | | |
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| | 6 MR. & MRS. SMITH | | |
| | 7 SHUTTER | | |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 FRENCH SPRING FILM FESTIVAL | | |
| | 2 MR. & MRS. SMITH | 11:00, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20 | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH | 12:00, 2:40, 5.20, 8:00, 10:40 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 2 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH | 2:00, 4:40, 10:00 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 3 MADAGASCAR | 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30,9:30, 11:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 4 STAR WARS EP. 3 | 12:30, 3:15, 6:00 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | MR. & MRS. SMITH | 8:40, 11:20 | |
| | 5 A LOT LIKE LOVE | 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15, 11:25 | GUARANTEED SEATS |
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| June 6 | Ina ai Bravos Dance Performance (Greenbelt 1, Onstage) 8.30pm |
| June 11 & 12 | Passage des Embaties Street Theater (Greenbelt 3) 2pm and 8pm |
| June 13 - 30 | The Man Who Planted Trees Art Exhibit (Glorietta Artspace) |
| June 14 | Indoor Circus by Camille Boitel (Greenbelt 1, Onstage) 8.00pm |
| June 17 - 19 | 10th French Film Festival regular run (Ayala Center Cebu) |
| June 18 | Fete de la Musique (Greenbelt 3) |

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|---|---|
| 1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH • THX<br>1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30 | 6 MADAGASCAR<br>1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00 |
| 2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH<br>11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 | 7 HOUSE OF WAX<br>12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 |
| 3 SHUT UP AND KISS ME<br>12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40 | 8 PREMONITION<br>1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00 |
| 4 STAR WARS Episode III<br>12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40 | 9 SIN CITY<br>1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40 |
| 5 A LOT LIKE LOVE<br>12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00 | 10 SHUTTER<br>1.00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40 |

### ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH | 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 |
| 2 SHUTTER<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 | 5 SHUT UP AND KISS ME<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 |
| 3 MADAGASCAR<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 | 6 A LOT LIKE LOVE<br>12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50 |
| 4 PREMONITION<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 | 7 SIN CITY<br>12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50 |

### METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

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|---|---|
| 1 SHUTTER<br>12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 | 5 SIN CITY<br>12:50 3:35 6:20 9:10 |
| 2 MADAGASCAR<br>12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 | 6 SHUT UP AND KISS ME<br>12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 |
| 3 A LOT LIKE LOVE<br>12:05 2:20 4:30 6:45 9:00 | 7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH<br>12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 |
| 4 STAR WARS Episode III<br>12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00 | 8 PREMONITION<br>12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 |

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# Disney's top guy in Asia is Pinoy

From page A3-4

acters are timeless, and can be passed on from generation to generation.

**How do you stay in touch with the Philippine market well?**

We buy a lot of research on the Philippines and we do a lot of our own research. We test programs before airing. And we keep track of what's happening in the Philippines. [Actually] we do this with all the markets on a daily basis.

When I am here, I talk to people. So I am pretty much up-to-date with what's going on.

It helps that my team is multi-cultural.

**You also have a multi-cultural show, right?**

"Studio Disney" has multi-cultural hosts. Nikki is from the Philippines, Azura from Malaysia, William from Hong Kong and Michael from South Korea.

That's a conscious effort.

The only reason we can't put together an all-Filipino show is because it will be seen in all 11 markets. In a way, I believe it's a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn more about the other children all over the region.

We often ask this question at Disney: What are the kids all over the region having for breakfast?

That would be congee in China; *kaya* toast in Singapore; *laksa* in Malaysia; *tapsilog* in the Philippines. Little interesting things like these will make us understand the world a little better.

> 'We often ask, what are the kids having for breakfast? That would be congee in China, *laksa* in Malaysia, *tapsilog* in RP…'

**How do you cope with competition? Your main rival Nickelodeon is more aggressive and not as traditional as Disney.**

Disney, I think, is way past being traditional. It's timeless, but it's also aggressive and dynamic. We have a lot of new products like "Lizzie McGuire," "Phil of the Future," "Kim Possible" and "That's So Raven."

**But these new shows also adhere to Disney values?**

The values will stay the same. It wouldn't be Disney [without these values]. That's the litmus test of a good brand. Even if we remove the Disney logo, people will still say it feels like Disney.

[Nickelodeon's] is a different approach. As for Disney, I wouldn't argue with 80 years of success. But it doesn't mean that Disney is static—it's a living, breathing, growing animal.

We have to make sure our shows are always timely and relevant. Today's kids grow old very quickly. They're into SMSing, computers, DVDs, iPods, malling.

You're competing with so many things [for the kids' attention].

**Is this why music plays an integral part in Disney's programming?**

Yes, very much so. "The Kim Possible Movie: So the Drama" has a brand-new soundtrack. "That's So Raven" has a new opening song every week. We devote a lot of attention and effort to it because we understand that music is very much a part of the lives of kids and teens. We want to get into the soundtrack of their lives.

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| 2 | MR. & MRS. SMITH | 11:05, 2:05, 5:05<br>8:05, 11:05 | PG-13 |
| 3 | MR. & MRS. SMITH | 10:35, 1:35, 4:35<br>7:35, 10:30 | PG-13 |
| 4 | A LOT LIKE LOVE | 12:30, 3:05, 5:40<br>8:15, 10:50 | PG-13 |

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633-1901

**cebu cinema 1**
1 SIN CITY [illegible]
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III [illegible]
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5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 ARE WE THERE YET?
8 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11 PREMONITION
12 MADAGASCAR

**sm city fairview**
1 ANG LAGUSAN
2 PREMONITION
3 UNLEASHED
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 SHUTTER
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SIN CITY
10 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11 HOUSE OF WAX
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

**sm north edsa**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
5 PREMONITION
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 LA VISA LOCA
8 SIN CITY

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1 UNLEASHED
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 MADAGASCAR
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 LA VISA LOCA
8 HOUSE OF WAX
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 SIN CITY
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

**sm city sta mesa**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 SIN CITY
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 PREMONITION

**sm city southmall**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
3 MADAGASCAR
4 POOH'S HEFFALUMP
5 PREMONITION
6 SIN CITY
7 STARWARS: EPISODE III
8 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
9 A LOT LIKE LOVE
10 SHUTTER

**sm cinema tutuban**
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**sm supercenter sucat**
1 SHUTTER
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY

**sm city bicutan**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MADAGASCAR
4 SIN CITY

LUZON

**sm city pampanga**
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2 MADAGASCAR
3 THE JACKET
4 UNLEASHED
5 HOUSE OF WAX
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

**sm city bacoor**
1 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
2 COACH CARTER
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 MADAGASCAR
8 SHUTTER

**sm city dasmariñas**
1 UNLEASHED
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

**sm city baguio**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 GUESS WHO
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

**sm city marilao**
1 UNLEASHED
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

**sm city lucena**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 SHAOLIN VS EVIL

**sm city cagayan de oro**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 MADAGASCAR
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

VISAYAS AND [illegible]

**sm city cebu**
1 SIN CITY
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MADAGASCAR
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 COACH CARTER
7 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

**sm city iloilo**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 RESERVED
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

**sm city davao**
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 UNLEASHED
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 MADAGASCAR
6 THE AMITYVILLE HOOR

**sm city batangas**
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 UNLEASHED

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# Disney's top guy in Asia is Pinoy

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DISNEY'S
BRANDY
Mr. Whiskers
An unlikely friendship blossoms deep in the heart of the Amazon rainforest!

RAYMUND Miranda: "I need to understand 11 different cultures."

JUST proves yet again that Filipinos have what it takes to land on top of the game, wherever the playing field.

Homegrown TV executive Raymund Miranda is the managing director for Walt Disney International, in charge of Southeast Asia and Korea. He joined Disney in 1998 and has been based in Singapore for the past four years.

Prior to joining the global giant, Miranda worked with GMA 7, logging in 20 years in the broadcast industry.

**How did your training in the Philippines prepare you for Disney?**

I started out in radio, which taught me a lot about the power of sound and music. Radio also taught me the importance of hard work. I started as a deejay [for RK 96 and KY 91.5 FM] in the graveyard shift. Then I moved to production and promotion.

I was behind a series of radio spots called "A Place We Called Home," which won at the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

Then I moved to GMA 7, post-production. I learned a lot about the technical and creative sides. Later, I transferred to GMA's general management, then I ran GMA's Alta Productions.

It began as a recording studio. Then we did commercials and TV shows. I handled "Business Today" with Mon Isberto, "Firing Line" with Teddy Benigno and Oscar Orbos, and "Viewpoint" with Dong Puno. I was with GMA 7 from 1987 to 1998.

My role [in Disney] is bigger now. It involves the hands-on bit [production, programming, marketing] and the business aspect as well.

I think my previous experience makes my job a lot easier, because I know what everybody is doing and I can tell them, "I've done this."

**How do you make sure you know the markets well?**

I need to understand not just one market but 11 different countries, with just as diverse cultures, histories and values.

(Disney is in Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, South Korea, Palau and the Philippines.)

**So flexibility is a job requirement?**

Very much so. But the markets are also similar in a lot of ways. They share the same values—love for family, respect for elders.

**Which are very Asian, of course.**

I used to think that way. But [I've learned that those values are] not just Asian; they're very universal.

**And consistent with Disney's corporate philosophy?**

Exactly. This probably explains why Disney does well in all markets. Which is also the reason that Disney has been around for 80 years. Disney stories and the char-

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12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10.00
③ A LOT LIKE LOVE
MTRCB PG-13
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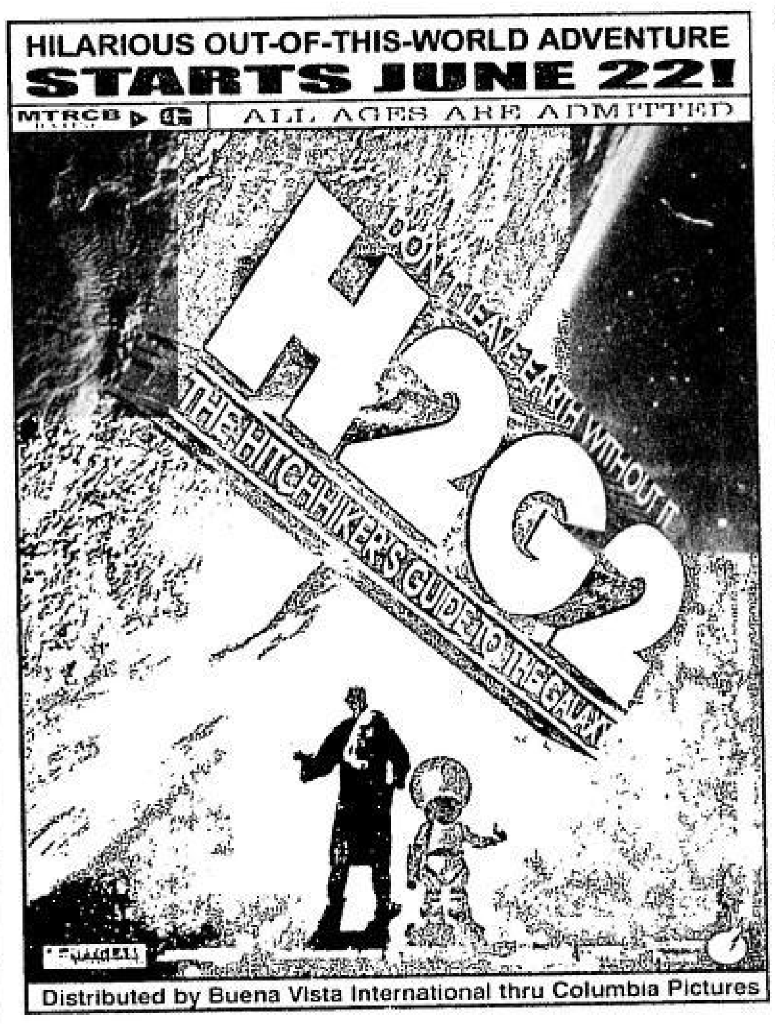
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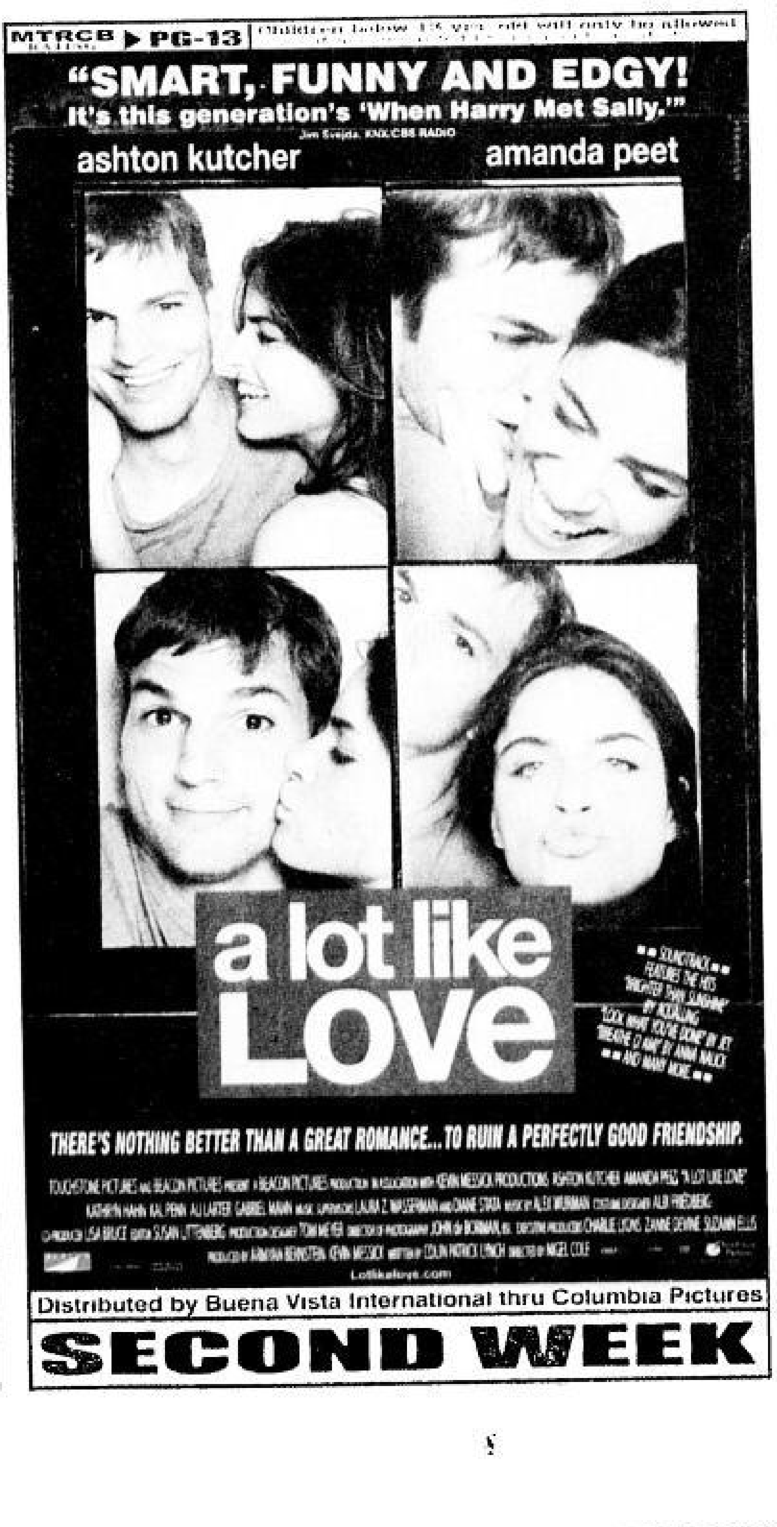
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| A LOT LIKE LOVE<br>PG13<br>12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00 | COACH CARTER<br>PG13<br>1:20,4:10,7:00,9:50 | MR. AND MRS. SMITH<br>PG13<br>12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:30 |

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# Gov't debt slightly down to ₱3.87T

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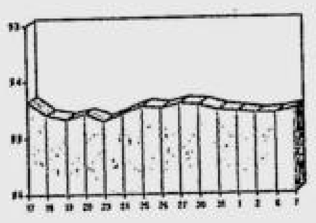

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As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2005

¥ 107.25 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 9, 2005

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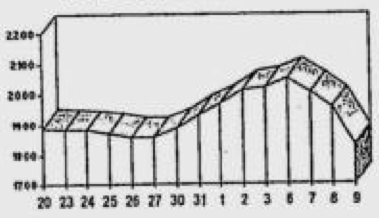
per ounce Hong Kong, June 9, 2005

### STOCK MARKET

**Stocks fall 2.8%**

SHARES yesterday fell sharply, dropping for the third straight session, weakened by allegations of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo as well as her family's links to gambling payoffs.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 55.04 points, or 2.8 percent, at 1,898.24. Since Tuesday, the index has fallen 7.4 percent. *AP*

By Michelle V. Remo

**THE NATIONAL government's debt stock reached P3.87 trillion in March this year, slightly down from P3.885 billion in February.**

This, according to the Bureau of Treasury, indicates that the debt curve is now starting to level off, reflecting the improving fiscal position of the government.

Of the March figure, P2.06 trillion or 53.22 percent represented domestic debts. Foreign obligations accounted for P1.81 trillion or 46.78 percent of the total.

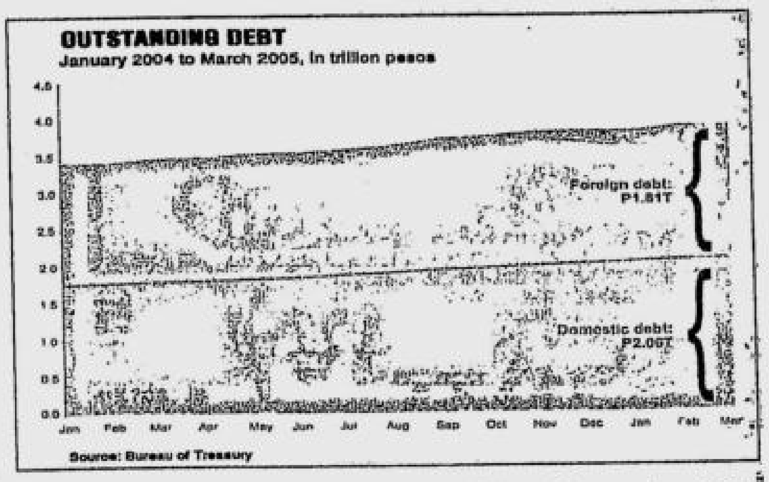
Although the government continued to borrow because of its huge budget deficit, the Treasury said the level of borrowings had been decelerating.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz explained that the 0.4-percent month-on-month decline in the debt figure did not mean the government had stopped borrowing. He said it reflected the national government's net redemption of government securities, which meant the amount borrowed by the national government for the period was lower than the amount of debt it paid.

The slight decline in debt was also brought about by gains from the net appreciation of other foreign currencies against the US dollar. Cruz said that since some of the government's foreign borrowings are in third currencies, the strengthening of those currencies against the greenback reduced the value of the country's debt.

Cruz said the national government would start to record real and significant declines in the debt figure when it succeeded wiping out its budget deficit. When the government no longer has a deficit to fill in, or when it already posts a budget surplus for a year, it can then stop borrowing for its operational requirements.

**OUTSTANDING DEBT**
January 2004 to March 2005, in trillion pesos



Source: Bureau of Treasury

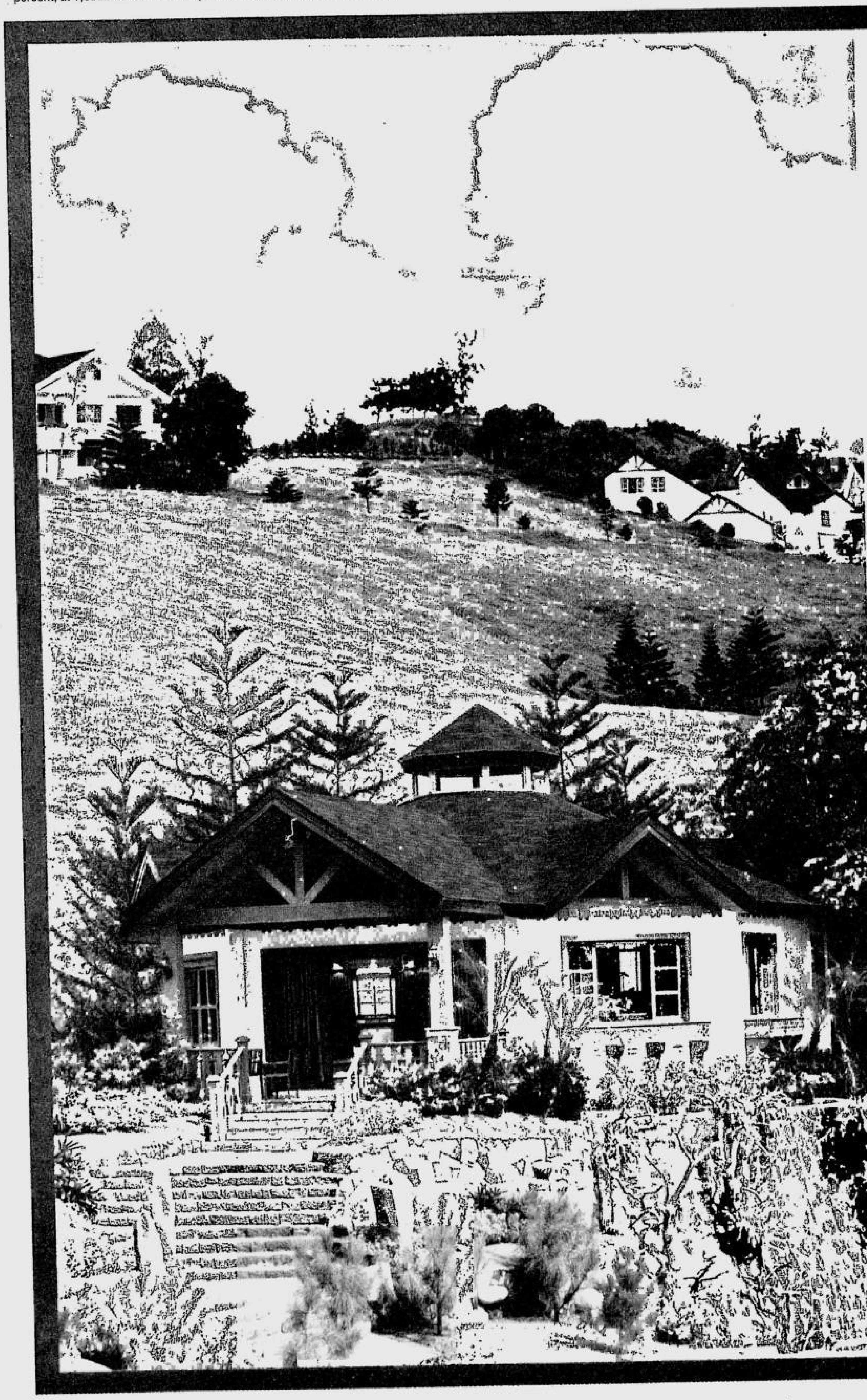
"Right now, the trajectory of our debt (curve) is flattening. When we begin to hit a surplus, targeted in 2008, then that will be the real point of inflection," he said in a press briefing yesterday.

The government set a target of reducing the budget deficit to P180 billion this year from P187 billion last year. But the Department of Finance projected that the deficit for the year could go down to as low as P151 billion because of the recent passage of the value-added tax bill, which expanded the coverage of the tax.

The March debt figure was computed based on the adjusted accounting system adopted by the Treasury.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Benpres to let go of Bayantel, MNTC, Medical City /B6
First Gen to hold IPO in Q4 /B5
2 more oil firms jack up prices /B4



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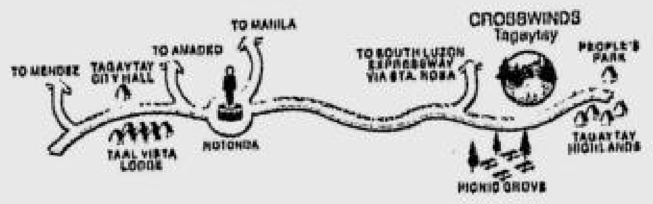

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# Lobby group urges RP to sign trade pact with US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TRADE lobby group based in the United States yesterday said the country should step up efforts to secure a free trade pact with the world's largest economy amid the growing list of countries wanting to do the same.

Thomas G. Travis, managing partner of Sandler, Travis & Roserberg PA (ST&RPA), "a leading international trade and customs law firm," told a forum of business groups and government officials that the country should be more aggressive "because the world doesn't wait and you've got to move."

The forum, organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the help of Angelo King Institute, Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines and the Garments and Textiles Export Board, was meant to encourage discussions among local stakeholders regarding an FTA with the US.

"Being a country with a historically favorable relationship with the US, you have to use that advantage," Travis said.

The lawyer said that as FTA negotiations were a continuing process, even after a pact has been signed and where rules always change, it was never too early to start the ball rolling.

Since 1988, the United States had entered into seven FTAs with Israel, Canada, North America (Canda and Mexico), Jordan, Chile, Singapore and Australia.

Washington is also in the thick of negotiations regarding FTAs with the Dominican Republic and Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua); Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland); the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru); Bahrain; Panama; Thailand; United Arab Emirates; and Oman.

Further, the US is considering potential FTAs with the Philippines and eight other countries, such as Egypt, Qatar, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Korea, Tunisia and New Zealand.

"The White House has announced that (steps have been taken toward) an enterprise for the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) initiative," Travis said.

"The US government wants to do more trade with your region and the Philippines should bear this in mind."

Jessica A. Wasserman, a partner with ST&RPA, said an FTA with the US would most likely result in increased inflow of investments from the US; promotion of investments in the country for service operations outsourced from the US; support for growth in local priority sectors like agriculture fisheries, biotechnology and tourism.

"In 2003, direct investments from the US decreased by $350 million (compared to the previous year)," Wasserman said. "Hopefully, an FTA with the US would reverse this."

However, Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it was not yet time for formal FTA talks with the US.

"The country has to work on critical issues involving enforcement of intellectual property rights and the implementation of trade facilitations in the Bureau of Customs," Dee said.

## *DOT woos Japanese, South Korean tourists*

By Clarissa S. Batino

TOKYO, Japan—The Department of Tourism is wooing big multinationals, such as Toyota Motors Corp. here and Samsung Inc.of South Korea, to make the Philippines their destination for corporate leisure travels.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the plan was to initially target groups of 200 to 300 people.

"We are tapping the multinationals, particularly in our target markets of Japan, China and South Korea. We are particularly targeting those that are operating also in the Philippines," said Durano.

The tourism chief said concentrating on the major markets in North Asia, such as Japan, China and South Korea, should bring the "biggest and fastest return."

After promoting Philippine tourism in China in February, he said arrivals from China readily improved in March.

By the end of the first quarter, arrivals from China were up 104 percent against the previous year.

"We are lucky that we are closest to these three fast growing countries in terms of tropical resort attraction. And 80 percent of them look for natural attractions, which we can offer," added Durano.

During the Philippine business mission that was concluded here yesterday, Durano urged Japanese travelers to come to the Philippines for recreation, wellness, diving, and other attractions.

He is targeting to grow arrivals from Japan to one million by 2008, from 382,000 last year.

The DOT is pursuing an aggressive sales campaign in Japan to get a bigger share of the Japan's outbound tourism market of 17.4 million this year.

"We just need to keep on stressing the point that the Philippines is the closest tropical resort to Japan. And that the issue of security and peace and order are being continually addressed," Durano said.

Durano also said that in September, about 180 executives of Johnson & Johnson Co. based in China would come to the Philippines as part of their annual corporate incentive.

The Johnson & Johnson executives would do a Manila-Cebu-Bohol swing.

The deal came as a result of the DOT's marketing blitz in China last February.

Selling the Philippines to companies, according to Durano, would allow the DOT to meet and even exceed its targets.

The tourism chief wants to see three million tourists this year and five million by 2010.

Durano is leading a business mission in Japan to encourage more investments and to boost Philippine tourism.

More than 50 private sector and government delegates joined the mission in the key cities of Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo.

While in Nagoya, the tourism chief met with Toyota managing officer for Asia, Oceania and Middle East, Dato Akira Okabe.

Durano met with Okabe after visiting Toyota's plant in Tsutsumi, Nagoya, which employs 6,000 workers.

The tourism chief said that tourists on corporate leisure programs usually spend more than average, since the company shouldered the travel expense.

## Japanese firm to invest $8M in RP, DTI says

A JAPANESE food firm is investing $8 million in the country for the production of supply meant for supermarkets in Japan, while an Osaka-based business group announced that a big chunk of China-bound capital was being considered to be diverted here.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos, who is Tokyo, said in a statement that Japanese firms were considering the Philippines as a priority site for their offshore manufacturing activities and other investments.

Santos is in Japan for a week-long tour investment promotions tour in Japan's industrial centers—Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya.

He said that, for instance, Kobe Bussan Co. Ltd. was tapping the country's resource to process food, which it would supply its 320 specialty markets called Gyomu Super, whose primary clients were restaurants.

The official said Kobe Bussan would bring in raw food materials from Brazil such as chicken parts, fruits and vegetables to be processed here and re-exported to Japan.

Santos said the company planned to make the Philippines its alternative processing hub in Asia owing to abundant and good raw materials here.

Kobe Bussan has two facilities in China but is looking for other sites.

Also, the trade chief said the Kansai Economic Federation or Kankeiren announced that some 80 percent of Japanese investments that have traditionally gone to China was now looking for an alternative destination, with RP "emerging as a strong option."

The Osaka-based Kankeiren has 860 members and is a private, non-profit organization that formulates policy proposals pertaining to the Japanese economy.

"We have generated enormous interest among these businessmen and we expect more Japanese firms to be sending their teams to the country in the next few months to firm up their commitments," he said.

Kankeiren had sent a high-level mission to the Philippines last January, which was meant to gather first-hand information on the current situation here. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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| L300 FB SINGLE AIRCON | 602,000 | 80,400 | 23,745 | 16,917 | 11,832 |
| L300 FB DUAL AIRCON | 615,000 | 83,000 | 24,258 | 17,282 | 12,087 |
| L300 AF | 530,000 | 71,000 | 20,905 | 14,894 | 10,417 |
| L300 WT | 552,000 | 75,400 | 21,773 | 15,512 | 10,849 |
| L300 PET | 554,000 | 75,800 | 21,852 | 15,568 | 10,889 |

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| 50% D/P | 12 mos. | 18 mos. | 24 mos. | 36 mos. | 48 mos. | 60 mos. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 287,500 | 23,958 | 15,972 | 11,979 | 8,928 | 7,160 | 6,244 |
| 301,000 | 25,083 | 16,722 | 12,542 | 9,235 | 7,406 | 6,459 |
| 307,500 | 25,625 | 17,083 | 12,813 | 9,463 | 7,589 | 6,619 |
| 265,000 | 22,083 | 14,722 | 11,042 | 8,138 | 6,526 | 5,692 |
| 276,000 | 23,000 | 15,333 | 11,500 | 8,524 | 6,836 | 5,962 |
| 277,000 | 23,083 | 15,389 | 11,542 | 8,559 | 6,864 | 5,986 |

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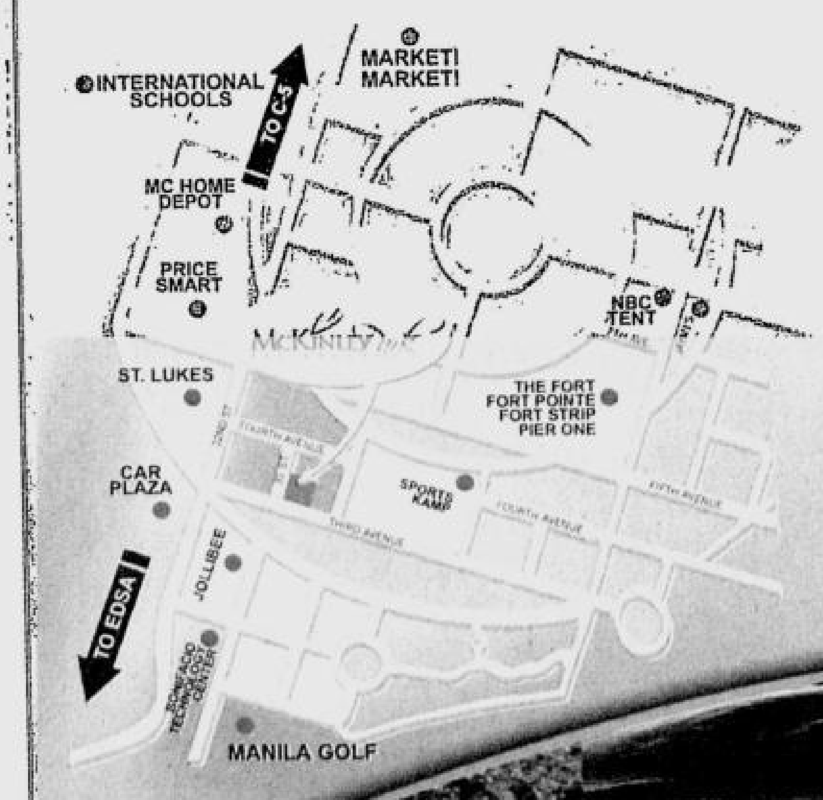
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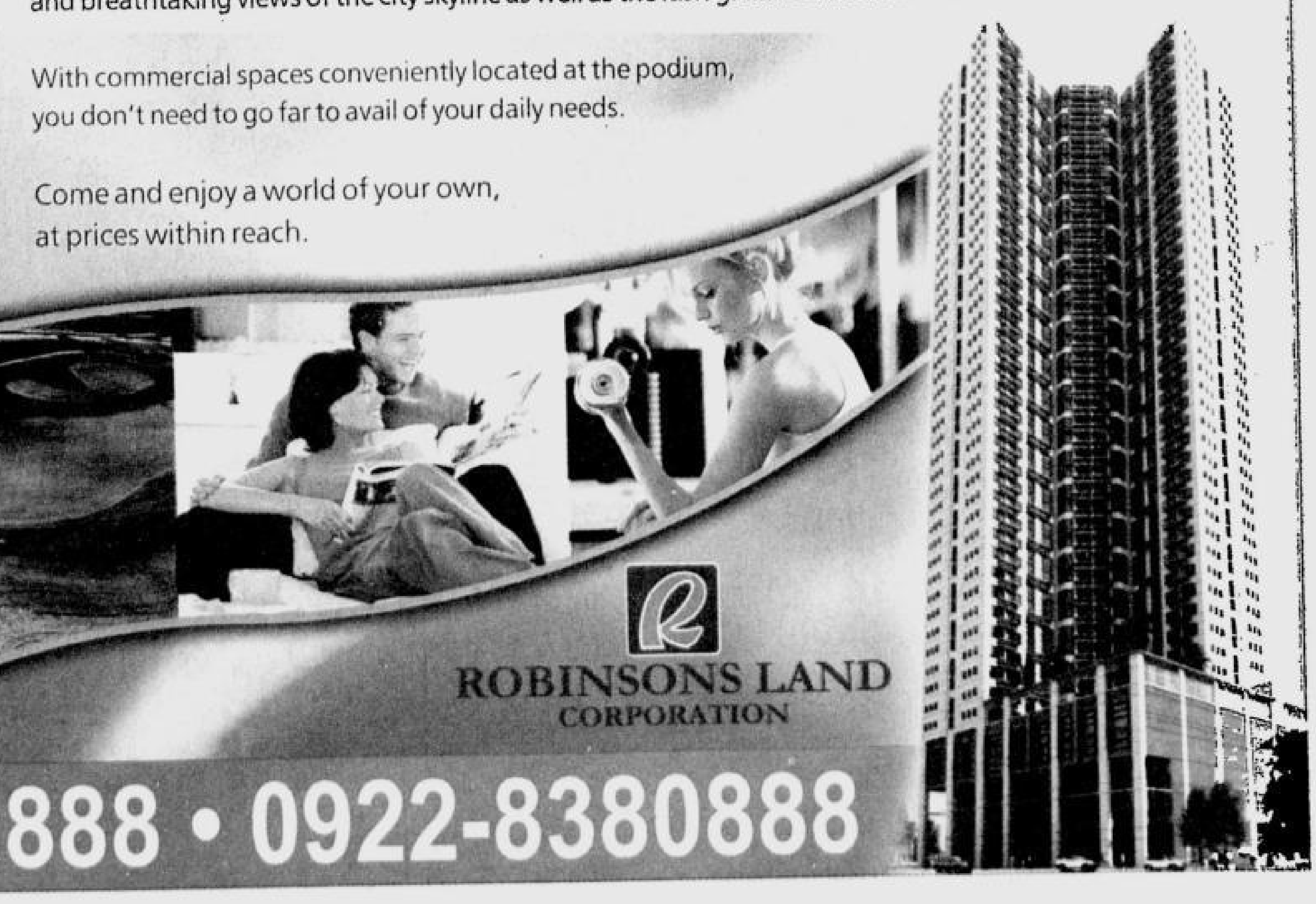

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# Finance unit trims tax credit approvals to ₱2.8B a year

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE ONE-STOP Shop Duty and Credit Drawback Center (OSS), a unit of the Department of Finance handling tax credits, said it had reduced the amount of tax credits it had been granting by about P9.1 billion a year.

OSS executive director Ernesto Hiansen said his office had been approving an average of P11.98 billion worth of tax credits yearly from 1995 to 1998. Starting 1999, the yearly average dropped to only P2.84 billion.

"We have denied quite a number of (tax credit) claims, and we have raised our standards in approving applications for tax credits. As you very well know, there had been a lot of tampered, fake and used TCCs (tax credit certificates) being sold and re-used," Hiansen said in a press briefing yesterday.

According to OSS estimates, the government lost about P5.3 billion in revenue due to tax credit fraud. The illegal activity, which proliferated in the 1990s and detected in 1998, was done either by securing fraudulent TCCs, or selling fake TCCs. TCCs are used in paying taxes and duties.

Hiansen said the OSS also improved the materials used in making TCCs to make sure they could not be easily copied. The OSS has also employed stricter monitoring of applications to prevent fraudulent tax credit claims, he said.

Couple Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe accounted for the single biggest tax credit fraud recorded by the agency. Authorities are after the couple for allegedly defrauding the government of some P2.5 billion through sale of fraudulently secured TCCs.

Hiansen said the Office of the Special Prosecutor, one of the agencies that committed to pursue cases of tax credit fraud, had submitted a letter to the Department of Justice seeking a speedy extradition proceedings against Mrs. Chingkoe, who is in Canada.

Mr. Chingkoe is in the country and was already served an arrest warrant. He is currently on bail.

Various government agencies earlier agreed to form a group that would pursue tax credit fraud cases. These agencies were the OSS, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

# 2 more oil firms jack up prices

**By Abigail L. Ho**

FOLLOWING the lead of the country's three major oil firms, Total (Philippines) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. yesterday increased the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene products by 50 centavos a liter.

Both firms increased their prices at noon yesterday, citing the upward trend in world oil prices as the reason.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the benchmark Dubai crude had climbed to an average of $49.13 a barrel in the first eight days of June, up by almost $4 a barrel from the $45.39-a-barrel average posted in May.

Unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also went up to $56.90 a barrel in the June 1-8 period, more than $2 higher than the May average of $54.46 a barrel.

The MOPS-based diesel likewise soared to a June average of $68.21 a barrel, up by more than $5 a barrel from the $62.74-a-barrel average last month.

The uptick in world oil prices the past few weeks had prompted the top three oil firms—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., and Caltex Philippines Inc.—to lead the present round of pump price increases.

Shell was the first to hike prices at noon Wednesday, followed by Petron at 6 p.m. the same day. Caltex jacked up its prices at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Last month, oil firms gave a welcome respite to motorists by reducing gasoline prices thrice by a total of P2.25 a liter, and diesel and kerosene prices once by 30-35 centavos a liter.

Recent developments in the international market, however, led to this fresh round of increases.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have increased nine times by a total of P4.85 a liter, while prices of diesel fuel have gone up 10 times by a total of P5.05 a liter.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P29.20 and P31.17 a liter, diesel at between P26.65 and P28 a liter, and kerosene at between P28.20 and P29 a liter.

# E-Choupal: Best business awardee

**By Ernesto M. Ordoñez**

COMMENTARY

TWENTY days from now, the final report on a subject critical to both farmers and consumers will be submitted. Entitled "From seed to shelf: A logistical evaluation of Philippine agriculture," the project is funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and implemented by the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

One reason given for the substandard performance of our agriculture compared with other countries like Thailand is that our government has given most of its attention to production. Agriculture was not treated sufficiently as a business system, where the supply and logistical chain forms a vital part. It is, therefore, a welcome development that both Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap give this area its deserved priority emphasis.

Part of the terms of reference of this project is to look at successful supply chain models both here and abroad. Though several examples were considered, the most promising one was shared by Secretary Neri: India's e-*choupal*.

## World business award

When we surfed the Internet for more information on this topic, we found out that it had won the very first "World Business Award" given by the International Chamber of Commerce and the UNDP on May 18, 2004 in Paris. By then, 4,100 e-choupals had been established, covering 21,200 villages in India and providing access to over 2.4 million farmers.

In Hindi (an Indian language spoken in most parts of Northern and Central India), a *choupal* is a village gathering place. The e-choupal initiative—whereby a choupal is equipped with a computer and Internet connectivity—is the brainchild of a large agricultural processing company in India, the Indian Tobacco Co. (ITC). Its chair is Y.C. Devaswar, while the chief executive of its agribusiness group is S. Sivakumar.

A study done by a team from the World Bank and the Indian Institute of Management stated that this initiative "was conceived to tackle the challenges posed by certain features of Indian agriculture, such as fragmented farms, a weak infrastructure and the involvement of numerous intermediaries." Sounds like the Philippines.

## E-choupal operations

The e-choupals directly link rural farmers with a company for the procurement of agriculture and aquaculture products such as soy beans, coffee and prawns. Traditionally, these commodities were procured from agricultural marketing centers, in India's rural areas. A long chain of intermediaries was involved in buying the produce from farmers and moving it to the centers.

Through e-choupals, these farmers can directly negotiate the sale of their produce with ITC. The PCs and Internet access at the e-choupals enabled the farmers to obtain not only product price information but also good farming practices and the weather. Through the e-choupals, the farmers can also place orders for agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. This access to information helps farmers improve the quality of their produce and obtain better prices.

The e-choupals are administered by a *sanchalak* (operator), a literate person who is elected from among the farmers from a village. He acts as an interface between the computer and the illiterate farmers and retrieves information on their behalf. While ITC covers the initial cost for the equipment, the sanchalak pays for the day-to-day operation cost such as electricity and Internet charges. These costs vary from $60 to $160 per year. ITC trains the sanchalak who also doubles as a salesman. He is paid a sales commission of 0.5 percent, which makes this an attractive income opportunity for him.

ITC spends only an average of $100 yearly on the support and maintenance of each e-choupal. This includes training, maintaining a help desk, addressing equipment and software complaints, and repairing and replacing broken equipment.

## Farmer benefits

For the farmer to sell his product, he or she carries a sample of his produce to an e-choupal kiosk and receives a spot quote. If the farmer accepts the quote, he can then transport the produce directly and get payment within two hours.

The intermediaries are generally not removed from the value chain. Their roles are redefined as coordinators. They assist in managing the physical transportation of sales, collect price data from local auctions, and maintain records. They earn a one-percent commission, which provides them good income because of the transaction volumes.

ITC coordinates with government institutions for information, universities for technology developments, and companies for agricultural inputs to enable e-commerce. These companies take orders and market their products on the e-choupal website. ITC also works with an insurance company on a selective basis to provide services especially designed for the landless and marginal farmers.

## Visit to India

When I was in India last week on an invitation to attend a UNDP-sponsored meeting on trade and development, I talked to Maxine Olson, the UN coordinator for India. She said she was involved with e-choupal projects and spoke highly of them. I then contacted the ITC corporate communications head and an e-choupal regional manager. After I described the Philippine situation, they expressed great interest in sharing the e-choupal technology with us. We have already contacted Philippine agribusiness corporations. Soon, they will be meeting e-choupal officials in India and possibly here, which Agriwatch is currently arranging.

It is hoped that globally awarded supply chain technologies like e-choupal are implemented here. Only then can our agriculture truly develop.

For more information on e-choupal, you can access the following websites: www.itcibd.com; www.aquachoupal.com; www.sorachoupal.com; www.echoupal.com; www.plantersnet.com.

*(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)*

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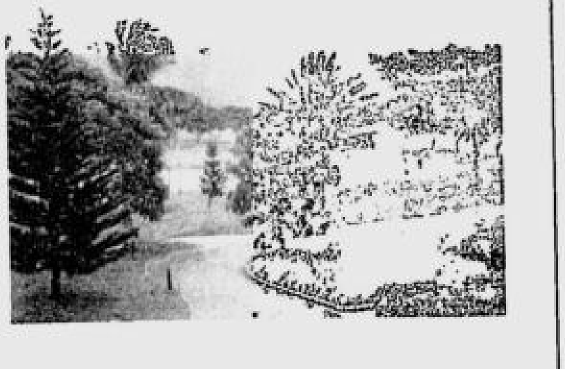

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| 758sqm | P | 2,046,600.00 | 1180sqm | P | 3,739,927.40 |
| 766sqm | P | 2,068,200.00 | 1283sqm | P | 4,066,378.69 |
| 816sqm | P | 2,203,200.00 | 1595sqm | P | 5,055,240.85 |
| 870sqm | P | 2,349,000.00 | 2258sqm | P | 7,156,572.94 |

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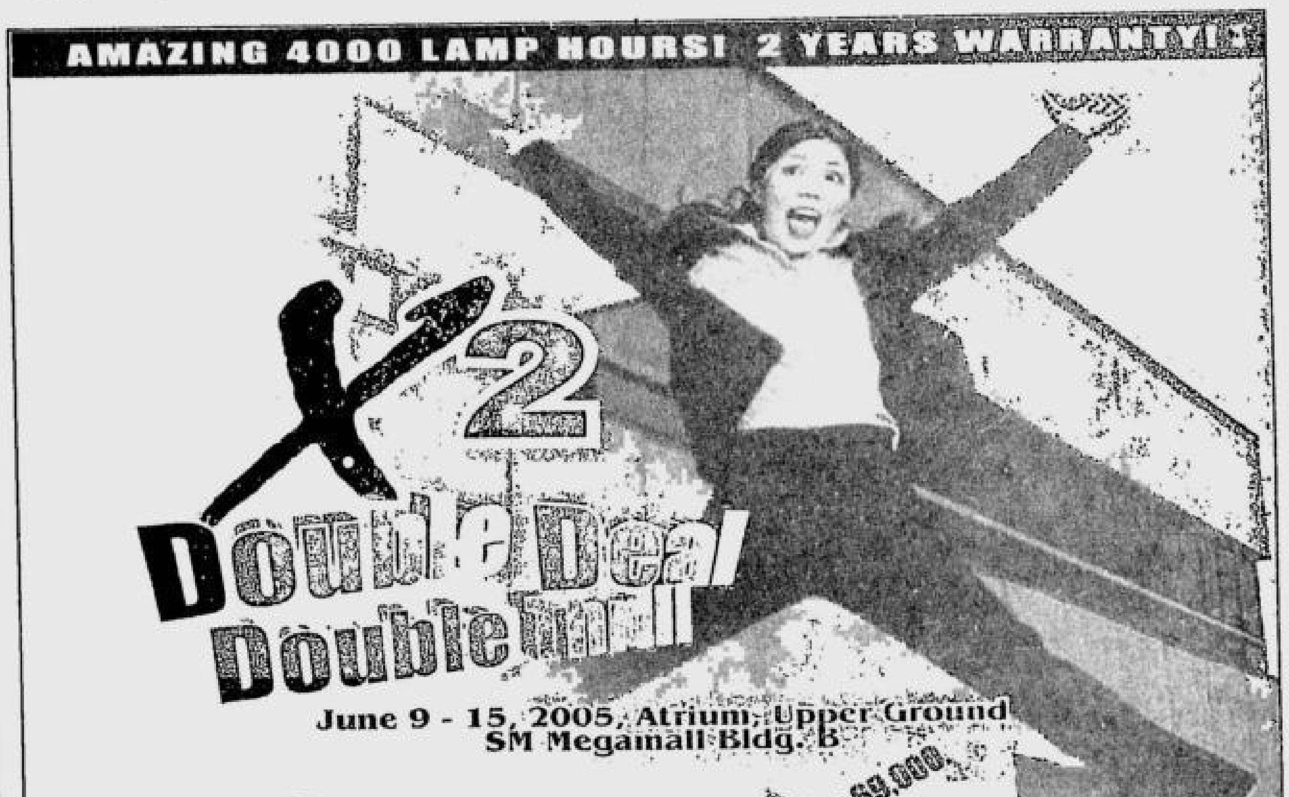

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# First Gen to conduct IPO in Q4

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GENERATION Corp., the holding company of the Lopez family for its power generation businesses, is slating its initial public offering in the fourth quarter, according to sources familiar with the company's activities.

Also, the Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday approved an increase in First Gen's issuance of fixed rate bonds to P3.5 billion from P3 billion. The bonds will be offered starting June 13.

Proceeds from the bond offer will be used to acquire existing power generating companies being privatized by the government and existing gencos that may be sold to private firms. Part of the funds will also be used to finance Greenfield projects.

First Gen has expressed its interest to list on the stock market this year and has tapped investment banks UBS Warburg, CLSA, BDO Capital and ATR Kim Eng as underwriters, sources said.

Francis Lim, PSE president, had said First Gen is hoping to offer between 20 and 40 percent of new and previously-owned shares estimated at $300 million.

In July 2004, First Gen won the bid for the 1.6 megawatt Agusan mini-hydro plant under the PSALM privatization program. First Gen took over the plant in March 2005. First Gen controls some 1,725 megawatts of gross generation capacity.

First Gen's subsidiaries include First Gas Power Corp., which owns a 1,000-MW natural gas-fired plant, and FGP Corp., which operates a 500-MW power plant. Both power plants are located in Batangas province.

First Gen is 88.4-percent owned by First Philippine Holdings. The remaining stake is distributed between Aidec FG Power Corp. Ltd., a $400-million investment fund, with 7.75 percent, and Sumitomo, one of the largest trading conglomerates in Japan, with 3.81 percent.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 9, 2005)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 31 | 32 | 30.5 | 32 | 833,100 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 49.5 | 49.5 | 47 | 47.5 | 1,814,700 |
| China Banking Corp. | 770 | 770 | 770 | 770 | 1,440 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 400 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.6 | 0.61 | 930,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 48 | 48 | 46.5 | 47 | 212,400 |
| International Exch. Bank | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 561,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 31.5 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 460,100 |
| Philippine National Bank | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 35,000 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 28 | 28 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 42,000 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 2550 | 2565 | 2550 | 2565 | 3,510 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 414,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1720 | 1725 | 1720 | 1725 | 210 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 79,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.04 | 1.08 | 5,415,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 825 | 825 | 800 | 805 | 40,700 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 182,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 900,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 1,000,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.05 | 3.15 | 3,518,000 |
| Transpacific Broadcast | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 15,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1535 | 1560 | 1520 | 1540 | 280,400 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 1,810,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 32,200,000 |
| POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.75 | 15.75 | 15.75 | 15.75 | 2,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 24 | 24 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 584,100 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6,766,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 4,600,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 2.02 | 2.02 | 2 | 2 | 75,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 500,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 15,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 166,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.04 | 1.08 | 1.04 | 1.08 | 300,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 1,230,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3.35 | 3.45 | 808,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 94,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 29 | 29 | 27.5 | 28 | 287,100 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 20,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 58 | 58 | 57.5 | 58 | 81,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 88 | 88 | 86.5 | 87.5 | 635,800 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 15.5 | 15.75 | 15.25 | 15.75 | 232,500 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 29,000,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 24,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 347.5 | 347.5 | 325 | 332.5 | 233,620 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5 | 4.8 | 4.85 | 1,340,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 11,100,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 80,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.31 | 120,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 104,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 510,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 15,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 2,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 300,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.08 | 1.1 | 51,182,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.155 | 0.16 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 250,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 900,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.3 | 2,850,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.55 | 903,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 500,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 1,210,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 48.5 | 48.5 | 46 | 47 | 1,667,200 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.0825 | 0.085 | 12,100,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.06 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.08 | 80,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 70,000 |
| IPVG Corp. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2,026,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 8,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.34 | 1.38 | 4,185,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 300,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 32,520,000 |
| Polar Property Holdings | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 3,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 350,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 130,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 249 | 255 | 248 | 255 | 1,334,870 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.175 | 0.185 | 8,170,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 250,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Music Semiconductors Corp | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 31,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 50,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 400,000 |
| Pryce Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 400,000 |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 10,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.16 | 5,940,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 230,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1,872,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 20,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 380,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(PDR) | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11 | 11.25 | 1,136,300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 17,789,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 1.58 | 1.58 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 547,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 140,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 2,300,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.21 | 0.215 | 4,440,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 13,200,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.42 | 1.44 | 1.4 | 1.44 | 14,304,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. | 0.1 | 0.11 | 0.1 | 0.11 | 800,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.215 | 0.23 | 510,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 590,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 500,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 1,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.185 | 0.19 | 0.185 | 0.19 | 190,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 4,798,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 120,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 10,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 114,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 3,093,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 10,600,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 17,640,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 50,500,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 56,700,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 452,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.9 | 0.91 | 2,950,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 4,703,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31 | 31.5 | 526,700 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 990,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 153,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 25,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 50,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 5,000,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 2.5 | 2.65 | 2.5 | 2.65 | 280,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.14 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.145 | 2,580,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.29 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.3 | 380,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **First Philippine Holdings Corp.** were Augusto Almeda-Lopez, Thelmo Cunanan, Peter Garrucho Jr., Oscar Hilado, Elpidio Ibañez, Manuel Lopez, Oscar Lopez, Vicente Paterno, Steve Psinakis, Ernesto Rufino Jr., Washington Sycip, Eugenio Lopez III and Jose De Jesus.

***

ELECTED directors of **Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.** were Charles Foo Chee Lee, Toh Ko Lin, Henry Sy Sr., Celso Vivas, Hoe Eng Hock, Charles Yap Giok Twee, Ishmael Limkakeng Jr., Mayo Jose Ongsingco and Wong Ngiam Jih.

***

ELECTED directors of **Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc.** were Teo Soon Hoe, Toh Ko Lin, Henry Sy Sr., Mayo Jose Ongsingco, Noel Mirasol, Hoe Eng Hock, Benjamin Mata, Celso Vivas and Ma. Melva Valdez. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| June 9, 2005 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.817661 | 1.000000 | 54.6160 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007616 | 0.009314 | 0.5087 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.491251 | 1.823800 | 99.6087 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.105091 | 0.128526 | 7.0196 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.651419 | 0.796686 | 43.5118 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.653868 | 0.799680 | 43.6753 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.491708 | 0.601359 | 32.8438 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.625410 | 0.764877 | 41.7745 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.168979 | 2.652661 | 144.8777 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.218043 | 0.266667 | 14.5643 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.490234 | 0.599556 | 32.7454 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000085 | 0.000104 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020150 | 0.024643 | 1.3459 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.222632 | 0.272279 | 14.8708 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.223000 | 66.7954 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.282684 | 0.345722 | 18.8820 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.333128 | 0.407415 | 22.2514 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134318 | 0.164271 | 8.9718 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018814 | 0.023010 | 1.2567 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.215203 | 0.263193 | 14.3745 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.075267 | 0.092051 | 5.0275 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.582339 | 0.712200 | 38.8975 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.126428 | 0.154622 | 8.4448 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013707 | 0.016764 | 0.9156 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.120920 | 0.147885 | 8.0769 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000813 | 0.000994 | 0.0543 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108792 | 0.133053 | 7.2668 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015751 | 0.019264 | 1.0521 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.026173 | 0.032010 | 1.7483 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000381 | 0.000466 | 0.0255 |

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2004 Black Sapphire
9,013km, P4,850,000

**BMW X3 2.5i Exec.**
2004 Black Sapphire
7,470km, P3,350,000

**BMW 525i Exec.**
2005 Titanium Silver
82km, P4,543,000

**BMW 530d Exec.**
2004 Mystic Blue
6,300km, P3,900,000

**BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster**
2004 Toledo Blue
1,551km, P3,400,000

**BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster**
2004 Sterling Grey
3,152km, P3,400,000

**BMW 325i M Sport**
2005 Imola Red II
82km, P3,420,000

**BMW 325i M Sport**
2005 Topaz Blue
86km, P3,420,000

**BMW 325i M Sport**
2005 Imola Red II
82km, P3,420,000

**BMW 325i M Sport**
2005 Techno Violet
98km, P3,420,000

**BMW 318i M Sport**
2005 Black Sapphire
52km, P2,802,500

**BMW 325i Exec.**
2005 Black Sapphire
74km, P3,325,000

**BMW 318i M Sport**
2005 Imola Red II
2,988km, P2,800,000

**BMW 318i Exec.**
2004 Orient Ble
16,353km, P2,100,000

**BMW 318i M Sport**
2004 Titanium Silver
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*–Laura DiDio, The Yankee Group, April 2004*
*"Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison*

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# Benpres to unload MNTC, Bayantel, Medical City

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BENPRES HOLDINGS Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez family with interests in media and power distribution, is selling some of its prime assets to help ensure cash flow and cut down its $403-million debt.

Following its stockholder's meeting yesterday, Benpres president Angel Ong said the company is looking to dispose of its interest in the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), the operator of the 84-kilometer North Luzon Expressway, as well as its stakes in Medical City and Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (Bayantel).

Benpres owns one-third of MNTC, 19 to 20 percent of Medical City, and 85 percent of Bayantel.

Benpres' stake in Bayantel will be diluted once Bayantel's debt restructuring is fully implemented. The final equity dilution has yet to be known.

Benpres earlier invested around P200 million in equity in Medical City and about $51 million in MNTC.

Ong said Benpres is now negotiating with four multinational firms, including Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Group, for the sale of its interest in MNTC.

Ong declined to name the possible investors, but hinted that two are involved in tollways management.

In the same stockholder's meeting, Benpres director and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chair Eugenio Lopez III said that there is also a chance a big telecommunications firm may buy Bayantel.

He did not name the possible investors, but sources pointed to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. as some of the companies that have been eyeing the firm. There are no discussions over the sale of Bayantel at present.

Benpres also expects to book income of at least P1 billion this year when it reflects as income Maynilad Water Services' P1.4 billion and P2.6 billion worth of other provisions for interest payments.

Benpres earlier reported a net loss of P1.36 billion last year.

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# *VAT: Opportunity for BIR to shine or fall*

By Paul R. Cooper

*(Fifth of a series)*

THE SENATE had it right at the start of the bill process. If value-added tax (VAT) collections are P138 billion per year, but the estimated VAT base is P250 billion per year, why is the Philippines imposing new taxes? Surely the focus should be on collecting taxes that are already payable.

The reality is that nobody knows the true extent of the VAT leakage, and it is hard to believe that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs could fail to collect 45 percent of the potential VAT base. After all, the VAT is accepted internationally to be one of the easiest taxes to administer.

Perhaps the answer lies in voluntary compliance; or rather a lack of it.

Comments by the previous BIR commissioner suggest that 98 percent of Philippine tax collections come from voluntary compliance and only 2 percent from audit activity. Don't be surprised at the ratio between the two; it is not wildly different from what other countries experience.

## The current state of play

The message should be clear though. If a country really wants to improve its tax collections, it is likely to be far more successful by looking at ways to improve voluntary compliance, rather than pursuing errant taxpayers with a big stick. The latter approach will still have some impact. However, the gains may not be as great.

Complying with the VAT rules in the Philippines presents a challenge. The Tax Code provisions are generally fairly well drafted, but do contain some holes. How should agency sales be documented to ensure there is no VAT leakage? What is the proper way to account for VAT on an installment or hire-purchase sale? When should a service that requires the use of infrastructure for delivery (e.g., telecommunications services) be considered to be performed in the Philippines? At the end of the day though, solutions may be derived to these questions that fit within the framework of the law.

The real problem is that, to ascertain how the BIR will interpret and apply the law, a person needs to reconcile more than one dozen revenue regulations, some of which conflict with each other, and some of which conflict with the Tax Code.

## A step back

Ironically, even the BIR does not have a set of consolidated regulations dealing with the value-added tax ... yet it expects taxpayers to comply with them! Add to that the volume of circulars and rulings that taxpayers need to be aware of, and the result is messy!

One can also take a step further back. It is accepted internationally that taxpayer education is a critical feature in making VAT work well. The obvious place for a person to start when trying to determine his VAT obligations when starting a new business would be an easy-to-read VAT guide published by the BIR ... which doesn't exist. How then does a taxpayer find out that it is absolutely critical to hold proper VAT invoices and VAT official receipts if he wants to claim a VAT input tax credit? Currently, many are finding out the hard way, when the BIR raises the issue in audit.

Add to that the fact that once the government has collected tax, it is extremely reluctant to refund it again. Is it any wonder that taxpayers do not voluntarily comply with their obligations if: (a) the BIR does not make it easy to ascertain those obligations; and (b) the BIR is not perceived to be fair and even-handed with money belonging to taxpayers?

In business, goodwill is an important concept. Not surprisingly, successful businesses tend to have more of it.

## Message to the BIR

Two provisions in the VAT bill cut to the heart of the compliance problem:

- Under Section 23 of the bill, the BIR must, by June 30, 2005, issue implementing rules and regulations. Significantly, once those regulations are issued, all existing VAT rules and regulations are revoked. The BIR now has no choice but to do something it should have done a long time ago—prepare a single coherent set of VAT regulations.
- Under Section 21(E) of the bill, P15 million is appropriated to the BIR for a public information and education program, explaining to businesses through seminars, taxpayer visits and the preparation and publication of easy to read guides, their obligations under the VAT law.

For the second issue, the amount of the appropriation is probably secondary to the message from Congress that the BIR needs to undertake such initiatives.

It is disappointing though that the bicameral conference removed the requirement for the BIR to complete the program by Dec. 31, 2005. The timeframe in the Senate bill made sense, given that the bill introducing new invoicing rules will take effect on Jan. 1, 2006. The education campaign should still proceed; the only difference now is that the campaign must proceed because effective tax administration demands it.

Let us hope that the BIR rises to both challenges.

## Leverage the new rules

The VAT bill makes significant changes to two administrative areas: VAT registration and de-registration, and VAT invoicing.

For registration and de-registration, the changes are fairly mechanical. The registration threshold has been increased from P750,000 per year (Revenue Regulations No. 1-95) to P1.5 million per year, and the rules for determining when registration must—and deregistration may—occur have been made more precise.

There is one nasty fishhook the BIR must communicate though. If a taxpayer meets the requirements to register for VAT but fails to do so, the taxpayer will be liable to account for 10-percent VAT on their sales, but will not be entitled to claim input tax credits. That is a nasty sting if the BIR does not make taxpayers more wary.

Changes to the invoicing rules are more complex. Under the House version of the bill, taxpayers would have been required to change their accounting records to show VAT separately on their invoices and receipts fifteen days after the new law was published. The Senate version of the bill (adopted in the final bill) is more realistic, so that taxpayers have until Jan. 1, 2006 before they must show VAT separately.

It also includes more explicit rules on how VAT-exempt and zero-rated sales should be documented, and requires a VAT invoice to be issued for the sale of goods and a VAT official receipt to be issued for the sale of services. (How many taxpayers are aware that the Court of Tax Appeals has interpreted existing law in this matter?)

The sanctions are also more explicit if taxpayers get it wrong. A non-VAT-registered person who issues a VAT invoice or VAT official receipt must account for the VAT without the benefit of input tax credits, and is also liable to a 50-percent fraud penalty.

Perhaps the most significant amendment the BIR could pick up on is that for sales of less than P1,000, the name and TIN of the purchaser will no longer need to be shown before a VAT invoice or VAT official receipt may be used to evidence a claim for an input tax credit.

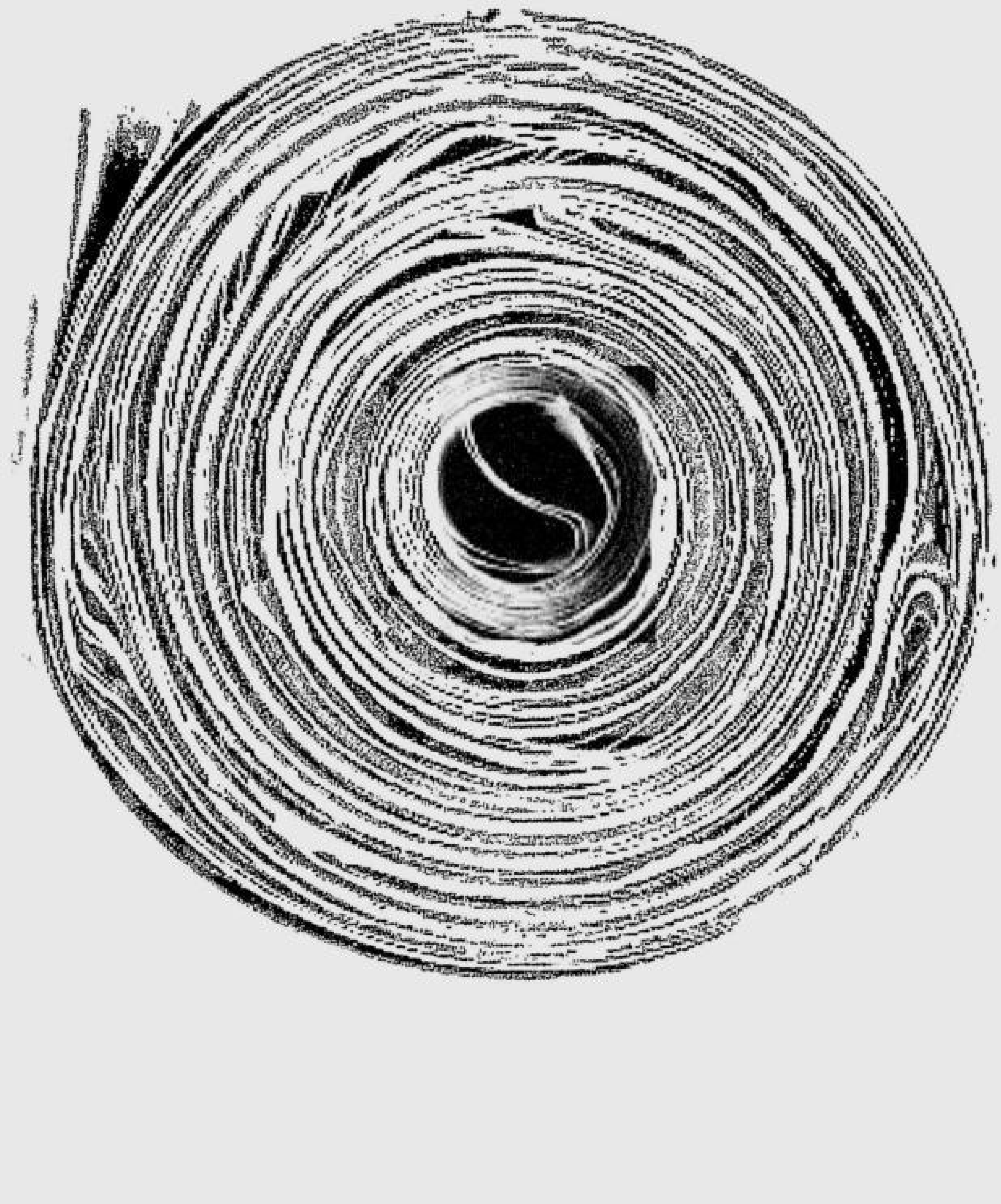
From an administrative perspective, it is difficult to stress the importance of VAT invoices or official receipts if the law places unreasonable requirements on taxpayers (current law requires the name and TIN of the purchaser on any sale between VAT-registered persons, even if the transaction is for only P1).

The BIR has an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that it can respond to the challenges created by the bill, so is worthy of aspiring to join the ranks of top level international tax administrations.

Leveraging the new registration rules and invoicing rules in an effective taxpayer education campaign will be worthy of applause if the BIR pulls it off. The real icing on the cake though would be if the BIR could also pull off the impossible: getting prepared sufficiently fast so it can deal with small businesses that become liable to VAT on July 1, 2005 because their VAT exemptions have been repealed.

This is a task that I suspect may be beyond the BIR. But if Congress enacts laws whose effective dates are too tight, who can blame the BIR? It was within the power of Congress to provide sufficient lead time for small businesses. *(To be continued)*

*(The author is a tax expert and a director of PricewaterhouseCoopers.)*



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INQUIRER

# Citystate, Unitrust in takeover talks

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLICLY listed Citystate Savings Bank Inc. is in talks to take over the defunct Unitrust Development Bank as part of its expansion program.

In a recent interview with the INQUIRER, Citystate president Alfred Cabangon said the bank, which was targeting to boost its branch network to 50 in the next three years, was negotiating with Unitrust on the possible acquisition of its 12 branches.

Cabangon met with Unitrust Bank's former president Francis Yuseco last Friday to discuss the purchase of these branches.

At the same time, Cabangon said talks on the possible acquisition of First Savings Bank, another thrift bank earlier shut down by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for insolvency, was still on the table.

The bank had earlier submitted its proposal to acquire FSB to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Citystate Bank is set to conduct a stock rights offering to beef up its capital to as much as P1 billion, to upgrade its operations to that of a commercial bank.

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week June 7, 2005 | Last Week May 31, 2005 |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.25759 | 1.25541 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1.37490 | 1.36037 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.1220 | 1.1176 |

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

**INSULAR LIFE** — **UNIT PRICES (In Php)**

| Investment Funds of Wealth Builder | June 6, 2005 | May 30, 2005 |
|---|---|---|
| Fixed Income Fund | 1.032782 | 1.030809 |
| Balanced Fund | 1.027388 | 1.017808 |
| Equity Fund | 1.016764 | 0.988480 |

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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My Frontier

"If it wasn't a Frontier, we probably would not have survived."

On March 30, 2005, Joey R. Rillo was driving down South Super Highway with his wife in their Frontier automatic. They were on their way to Laguna to watch their daughter receive an academic award. They never made it.

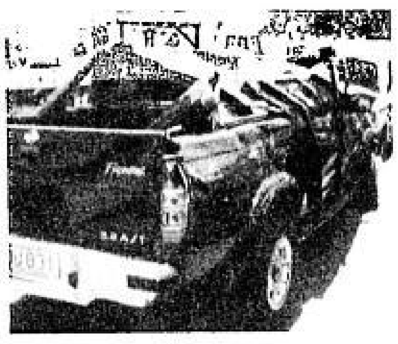
"We went into a deep ditch, at nag-turn turtle ang sasakyan."
- Joey R. Rillo
Senior Marketing Manager

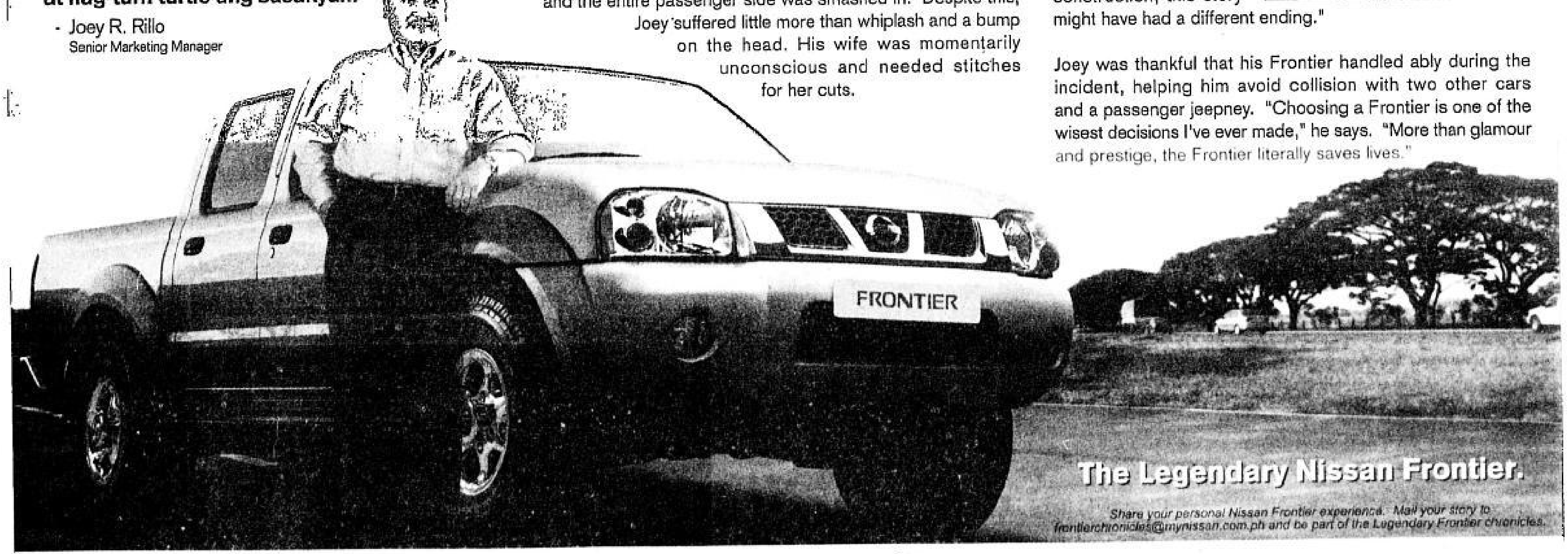
A speeding delivery van suddenly cut into their lane, forcing Joey's Frontier onto the shoulder. Running out of road, the truck hit a highway border post, rammed through a fence then rolled into a ditch. It flipped over several times before landing back on its wheels, some eight meters from the road above.

When the dust cleared, the Frontier looked as though a giant foot had stepped on it – its driver's side windows were shattered and the entire passenger side was smashed in. Despite this, Joey suffered little more than whiplash and a bump on the head. His wife was momentarily unconscious and needed stitches for her cuts.

"My daughter told me later on, she thanked God for giving back her parents," Joey recalls. "It's a good thing I was driving a Frontier and not a car that day. If it weren't for the strong pillars of the Frontier, and its solid construction, this story might have had a different ending."

Joey was thankful that his Frontier handled ably during the incident, helping him avoid collision with two other cars and a passenger jeepney. "Choosing a Frontier is one of the wisest decisions I've ever made," he says. "More than glamour and prestige, the Frontier literally saves lives."





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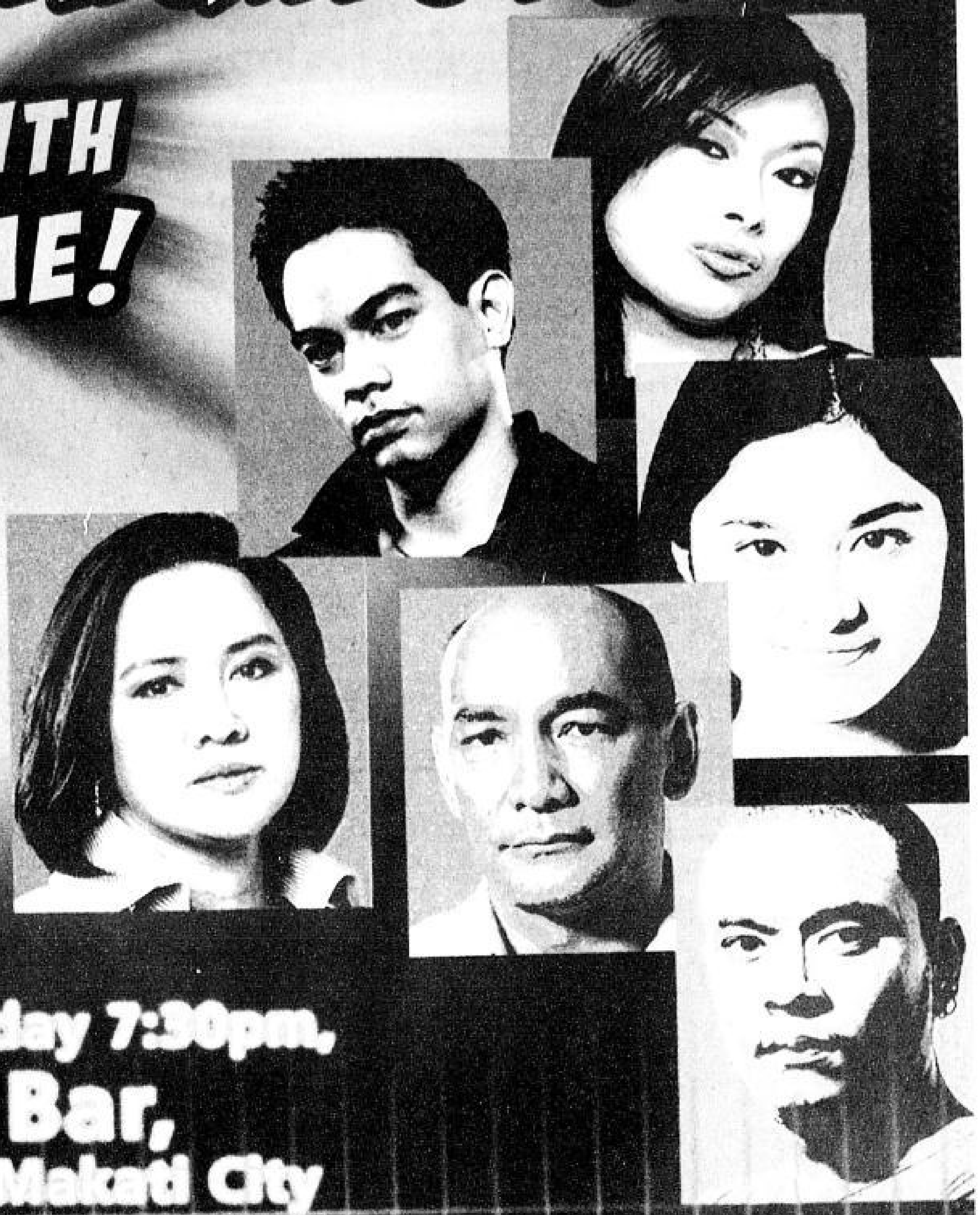

**Be first to bear witness as we reveal WHO KILLED JERSON MORALES... then find out if you made it as one of THE 5 WINNERS of up to P100,000 who correctly identified the killer!**

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Character Names to choose from:

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P8,500 up/m² 0918-9235216

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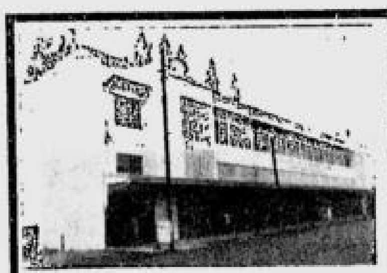
## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



Building A

Building B

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TOTAL AREA: 5,288 sq.m. With improvement thereof
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CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

#### PASAY

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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### CONDO/TWNHSE

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MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority through its BID and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) with office address at Mactan, Lapulapu City, invites all interested individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and cooperatives with at least Five (5) years experience in Security Surveillance System installation works and had contract experience of the same nature and complexity for the contract to be bid ("same" must be at least 50% of the cost for the contract to be bid), to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for CCTV Surveillance System of the MCIAA. The approved Budget for the contract Php 13,815,000.
2. The scope of works includes but not limited to the following:
   a. Supply / Installation of a complete CCTV Surveillance System (U.S. Canada, Europe and Japan "made" only) and its components with a total of Fifty Eight (58) cameras.
   b. Construction of Surveillance Management Room with complete furnishings.
3. Interested bidders shall submit a Letter of Intent and secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from the BAC Secretariat after payment of Non Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents at BAC office | June 11 to 21, 2005 |
| Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contractor's License | July 1, 2005 |
| Distribution of Bid Documents at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non refundable fee of P6,900.00. | July 19, 20 & 21, 2005 |
| Pre-Bid Conference | July 28, 2005 at 10:00 AM |
| Bid Opening | August 10, 2005 at 10:00 AM |

4. For more detailed information, the bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2486 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617.
5. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) M/GEN. ADELBERTO F.YAP (Ret)
General Manager

(PDI – June 10, 2005)

---

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#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

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2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
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Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed

Thank you very much Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for favor granted.

Republic of the Philippines
*Province of Nueva Vizcaya*
**MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON**

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya as implementing partner of the DLR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and bid for the following projects.
    1. **Rehabilitation & Improvement of Aurora CIS**
       Approved Budget Cost : P 5,796,750.72
       Estimated Duration : 180 Calendar Days
       Scope of Work : Construction/installation of canal lining, canal structures, protection works and portland cement concrete pavement.

       *Minimum Required Equipment*

       | | |
       |---|---|
       | 1 unit | Backhoe with 0.5 cu.m. bucket capacity |
       | 2 units | Dumptruck |
       | 1 unit | Payloader |
       | 3 units | 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer |
       | 3 units | Plate Compactor |
       | 3 units | Water Pump (diesel) 4" dia |

    2. **Rehabilitation & Improvement of Bantian-Maddiangat CIS Project**
       Approved Budget Cost : P 4,537,777.78
       Estimated Duration : 163 Calendar Days
       Scope of Work : Construction/installation of canal lining, canal structures, diversion works and protection works.

       *Minimum Required Equipment*

       | | |
       |---|---|
       | 1 unit | Bulldozer (200 hp) |
       | 1 unit | Backhoe with 0.5 cu.m. bucket capacity |
       | 2 units | Dumptruck |
       | 1 unit | Payloader |
       | 1 unit | Compressor 160 CFM |
       | 1 unit | Service Vehicle |
       | 2 units | 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer |
       | 2 units | Plate Compactor |
       | 2 units | Water Pump (diesel) 4" dia. |

3. Schedule of Bidding Activities

   | | |
   |---|---|
   | • Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements | June 16, 2005 |
   | • Issuance of Bidding Documents | June 13, 2005 to July 12, 2005 |
   | • Pre-Bid Conference | July 12, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m. |
   | • Submission and Opening of Bids | July 25, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m. |

4. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat Eligibility requirements, in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat c/o Engr. Dominador A. Gocobe of the Municipal Engineering Office.
5. Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A.
6. Bidding documents will be issued to eligible bidders by the BAC Secretariat at Municipal Treasurer's Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 per set.
7. The Local Government Unit of Quezon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ENGR. OLIDAN S. OJADAS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 3 & 10, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM**
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

**MEDICINES, INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM & MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR MINOLTA MICROFILM EQUIPMENT**

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility & to bid for the following:

1 Bulk Purchase of Medicines for the 2nd semester CY2005

| | |
|---|---|
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | P6,085,026.47 |
| Source of Funds | CY2005 Budget for Supplies & Materials - Medical |
| Contract Duration | Fifteen (15) Calendar Days |

Prospective bidders/suppliers must be:
- a. registered with the Bureau of Food and Drug
- b. able to present authenticated certificates of their product registration from the Bureau of Food and Drug.
- c. In the pharmaceutical business for at least five (5) years.

2. Supply, delivery and installation of an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform, which shall include the initial development and installation of the application system that will be used for the proposed IVR solution.

This acquisition is aimed at enabling SSS to provide more quality service to its members through a state-of-art communication system. With the proposed IVR, SSS members can help themselves to fast and round-the-clock information about their membership status, and benefit and loan application status.

| | |
|---|---|
| Approved Budget for the Contract | |
| • Hardware/Software | P12,000,000.00 |
| • Three-year Maintenance | P 3,600,000.00 |
| Source of Fund | |
| • Hardware/Software | Approved Budget for PABX and IVRS Upgrade |
| • Three-year Maintenance | Operating Expenditures: M/R – Computer Eqpt. |
| Contract Duration | Sixty (60) calendar days after signing of the contract |

**This is a re-publication.**

3. Maintenance Service Requirements of SSS Minolta Microfilm Equipment and Peripherals, located in its various Offices and Branches.

The aforementioned services are aimed at providing the SSS a preventive and proactive means of ensuring the reasonable level of performance of the said equipment.

| | |
|---|---|
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P2,747,668.00 |
| Contract Duration | Two (2) years |
| Source of Fund | M/R - Furniture & Equipment |

**This is a re-publication.**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

| Particulars | Date | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| Issuance of eligibility requirements | June 10 to 24, 2005 | BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg. |
| Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements<br>• Item # 1<br>• Item # 2<br>• Item # 3 | <br>July 01, 2005<br>July 04, 2005<br>July 04, 2005 | BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg. |
| Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee, as follows:<br>• Item # 1 - P5,000.00<br>• Item # 2 - P10,000.00<br>• Item # 3 - P1,000.00 | <br>July 05, 2005<br>July 06, 2005<br>July 06, 2005 | BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg. |
| Pre-bid Conference<br>• Item # 1<br>• Item # 2<br>• Item # 3 | <br>July 07, 2005 / 3:00 PM<br>July 07, 2005 / 3:30 PM<br>July 07, 2005 / 4:00 PM | President's Board Room, 6th Floor, SSS Main Bldg. |
| Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin. | | |

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - June 10, 2005)

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# PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

PMPC
ORTIGAS AVENUE EXTENSION, TAYTAY, RIZAL

## NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION will be held at the Human Development Center, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal on June 17, 2005 at 5:00 P.M.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. National Anthem
2. Call To Order
3. Establishment of the Quorum
4. President's Annual Report
5. Approval of Minutes of 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
6. Financial Report
7. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management
8. Election of New Members of the Board of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditors
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the closed of business on May 31, 2005 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said Annual Meeting.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than Friday, June 10, 2005.

MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER, IS NOT SOLICITING YOUR PROXY. Corporate stockholders should attach to their proxies their board resolution designating authorized representative.

Registration starts at 8:00 A.M. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport or Driver's License.

Taytay, Rizal, May 16, 2005.

**MAMERTO Z. MONDRAGON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--June 10, 2005)

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LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 05-054-05

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

| RIV No. | QTY. | ITEM/DESCRIPTION | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|
| L-05-006 | 1 Lot | REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF DAMAGED LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES (LRV 1002, 1007 1015 & 1016) DUE TO COLLISION | Php 27,676,126.53 |

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, during regular office hours starting **June 13-20, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Pesos (P 7,000.00).

Site inspection will be held on June 22, 2005, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on June 24, 2005, Friday, 10:30 a.m., at the above address.

The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids not later than **July 07, 2005, Thursday, 9:00 A.M.** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

**(Sgd.) LT COL CESAR B CHAVEZ (GSC) MNSA**
Deputy Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 10, 2005)

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**National Irrigation Administration**
Region 13, Bancasi, Butuan City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), hereby invites Contractors who have both a PCAB License with Registration particulars of at least "Medium A" and duly Licensed Fabricator with field of specialization on the Fabrication and Installation of Steel Gates to secure Eligibility Forms for the proposed Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of **4-units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate for Mat-I, Ambacon, Pinanaan Communal Irrigation Project (MAP CIP) located at Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Contract** | Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of 4 Units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate |
| **Location** | Las Nieves, Agusal del Norte |
| **Description** | Fabrication, Delivery and Installation of 4 Units Assembly Sluice Steel Gates, Navigation Lock and 1-unit Assembly Vertical Intake Steel Gate |
| **Approved Budget for the Contract** | P7,481,000.00 |
| **Contract Duration** | 120 Calendar Days |

The list of materials required for Fabrication and Installation and the corresponding specifications are provided for in the Bidding Documents.

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License as contractor/fabricator applicable to the contract, who have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated Bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Award of Contract and Standard Forms shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Receipt from prospective bidders of letters of intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility | June 15, 2005 – July 6, 2005 |
| 2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms | June 15, 2005 – July 6, 2005 |
| 3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005 |
| 4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check | June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005 |
| 5. Issuance of Bid Documents | June 16, 2005 – July 7, 2005 |
| 6. Pre-Bid Conference | July 26, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.<br>Venue : NIA, Region XIII, Bancasi Butuan City |
| 7. Receipt and Opening of Bids | August 8, 2005 at 1:00 o'clock p.m.<br>Venue : NIA, Region XIII, Bancasi Butuan City |

For detailed information, please call Maril M. Montes at (085) 342-3000 or (085) 226-4954, E-mail: niacaraga@skynet.net.

The BAC will issue to the prospective bidders of the Eligibility Forms at the Regional Office of the National Irrigation Administration, Bancasi, Butuan City, upon submission of their LOI, and upon a non-refundable payment to the cashier of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. The BAC will issue the results of the Eligibility Check.

The BAC will issue the Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** to the National Irrigation Administration.

**The National Irrigation Administration** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 3 & 10, 2005)

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**WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER**
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Fax No. 321-17-97
E-mail Address: wvmc@mozcom.com

Project Reference Number: 001

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH - Western Visayas Medical Center through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | Supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals |
| Location | Western Visayas Medical Center |
| Brief Description | The Bidder shall provide the supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals |
| Approved Budget For the Contract | Php 22,991,176.92 |
| Contract Duration | 6 months |
| Delivery Period | Within fifteen days after receipt of Purchase Order |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | June 13 - 30, 2005 |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | June 21, 2005 |
| 3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity) | N/A |
| 4. Opening of Bids | July 5, 2005 |
| 5. Bid Evaluation | July 6-18, 2005 |
| 6. Post-qualification | July 19-26, 2005 |
| 7. Notice of Award | August 2, 2005 |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the DOH – Western Visayas Medical Center cashier.

The DOH – Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(PDI – June 10 & 17, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-017

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

COAST PACIFIC LINES CORPORATION,
Applicant.

x ----------------------------------------- x

### ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its their route/s under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

**FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:**

| Name of Ship | Area of Operation | Service/s offered/to be offered |
|---|---|---|
| MV PACIFIC PEARL | Any ports in the Philippines | Carriage of Cargoes |
| MV DANIELLE MARIE | Any ports in the Philippines | Carriage of Cargoes |

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 14 June 2005 at 2:00 PM at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg. cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) after which the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. the 30th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – June 10, 2005)

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NANCY Castiglione and Bong Villon.

# Nancy Castiglione opens Unica Hija boutique at Festival Supermall

PEOPLE strolling inside the Festival Supermall in Alabang last April 30, have never been as starstruck as when Nancy Castiglione dropped by for a visit that day. She came by to officially open the new Unica Hija boutique located at the second level of the Festival Supermall.

Nancy Castiglione is the first major celebrity endorser of Unica Hija. Yuppie husband-and-wife owners Bong and Jeng Villon thought of getting the actress-host to be their endorser because they thought she embodied all the qualities of the quintessential Unica Hija gal, qualities which incidentally, are also what guys wanted in their perfect girl, according to a survey they conducted: fun and exciting, sweet and caring and sincere and understanding. Well, it turned out, Nancy was all that – and then some. What they didn't know was Nancy was a true-blue Unica Hija fan! She's been sporting their shirts and skirts and shoes for the past year – which, of course, makes her the perfect endorser.

And as one of her first chores as the official face of Unica Hija, she graced the aforementioned launch at the Festival Supermall.

After the Rev. Fr. Paul de Vera of St. Benedict College blessed the boutique and along with the owners, presided over the ribbon cutting, Nancy with her two new friends in tow, Bong and Jeng's cute daughters, led the guests to the cocktail area. Invited guests who each had time to have a tete-a-tete with Nancy included Unica Hija franchisees Monica Billones of Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Tomas Rodriguez of Robinsons Lipa, Rebecca Song of SM Marilao and Leanne Zuniega of SM Iloilo, as well as Festival Supermall Alabang officials like senior marketing manager, Marivic Arugay, operations division manager, Joanne Gasgoria and operations tenant relation, Lisa Pedrosa.

This intimate interlude then gave way to an autograph signing session at the Unica Hija shop, where fans and admirers of Nancy also lined up and sidled up to the pretty gal for a photo opportunity. Our Unica Hija gal had a bit of a break from sitting down when she decided to walk through the mall and give out Unica Hija's 20 percent discount cards – as in, she strolled through the mall like any ordinary person. And then it was back to the store for more autograph signing and photo op. Needless to say, after giving out those 20 percent discount cards, she amassed a whole new throng of admirers who followed her to the store. These fans, after lining up to have their cards signed, immediately went shopping to avail of the 20 percent off!

Of course, Nancy couldn't let her fans have all the shopping fun. After the autograph signing and the photo op, she glided through the Unica Hija displays to chose some Unica Hija stuff. Her purchases included new shirts and skirts and shoes. A cute little knitted hat was also thrown in the bunch.

And that concluded that eventful day.

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**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory of the

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

of

## HON. VOLTAIRE "BUTCH" YLAGAN ROSALES

*Who died on June 10, 2004 in Tanauan City, Batangas*

A loving husband, father, son, and brother
. . . A true friend
. . . The public's good servant but God's first

His widow, **Nena** and their children **Vic** and **Lala**, invite relatives, friends, colleagues in the Philippine Judiciary, and sympathizers to pray for justice to be served and for his soul to rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

Masses will be offered on June 10, 2005 (Friday) at the following churches:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sacred Heart of Jesus – *Makati City* | 6:00 AM | 6:30 AM | 7:00 AM | 12:15 PM | 6:00 PM |
| San Alphonsus de Liguori<br>*Magallanes Village, Makati City* | 6:30 AM | 7:00 AM | 12:15 PM | 6:00 PM | |
| Santuario de San Antonio<br>*Forbes Park, Makati City* | 6:15 AM | 7:30AM | 12:15 PM | 6:00 PM | |
| St. John Bosco – *Makati City* | 6:30 AM | 7:30 AM | 12:15 PM | | |
| Archdiocese of Lipa, Church of St. John the Evangelist – *Tanauan City, Batangas* | 5:15 AM | 6:15 AM | | | |
| San Roque Parish – *Tingloy, Batangas* | 9:00 AM | 6:00 PM | | | |
| Parish of the Holy Child – *Makato, Aklan* | 6:00 AM | | | | |
| Cathedral of Kalibo – *Kalibo, Aklan* | 6:00 AM | | | | |
| St. Joseph the Worker – *Numancia Aklan* | 6:30 AM | | | | |

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Our dearly beloved
*Mommy*

## Pilar Yap Puzon

*Peacefully joined our Lord on June 8, 2005 at the age of 78.*

Her husband **Eleuterio** (deceased), loving children **Mike & Julie, Annie & Heinz Hueffel, Jessie & Melissa, James & Sally, Claudia & Rene Leal, Rufina, Henry & Rose**; and **Arthur & Lucy**; grandchildren **Melissa Joyce, Jose Mari, Jay Miguel, Nicole, Sandra, Pamela, Jethru, Nadine, Linette, Jed; Jay-jay, Kristine, Cherylle, Abigail, Liezl & Lyndon**; and relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be at The Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig, Metro Manila, date to be announced later.

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## ISAGANI SANTOS PARUÑGAO

*...passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 7, 2005 at the age of 83.*

His wife **Isabel** (†), loving children **Alexander, Emily & Warren, Evelyn, D'artagnan & Wilhma; Rommel** (†) **& Melody**; grandchildren **Kevin, Gen-Gen & Wes, Ian, Nolan & Josh, Ryan & Bryan, Abet, Lyn & Alex Jr.**; other relatives request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Marikina City.

Interment will be on June 11, 2005 (Saturday, 11:00 a.m.) at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapel.

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In Loving Memory of

## TOMASA O. SORIANO

*who peacefully joined her Creator on June 7, 2005 at the age of 83.*

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels Guadalupe.

Her remains will be cremated on June 11, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

---

In Memory of

## Gina Katigbak Lagdameo

On the occasion of her Tenth Death Anniversary, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered on June 10, 2005 at St. James the Greater Parish, Ayala Alabang at 6:20 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park at 6:15 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Ernest, Martin and Bianca, as well as the Katigbak and Lagdameo families request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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## DEATH NOTICE

### POMPEYO B. MONTESINES

1968-1980 Municipal Mayor of Liliw Laguna

*Who peacefully joined our Lord on June 7, 2005 at the age of 81.*

His remains lie in state at their residence in Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday afternoon, June 11, 2005 at the Liliw Garden of Memories after the Necrological service at Liliw Municipal Hall and Holy Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish in Liliw, Laguna.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Mactan Economic Zone I
Standard Form Number: SF-Goods - 05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

Project No ______
Supply of Electrical Equipment for Transco MEZ I, MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, Mactan Economic Zone I, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers and distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | SUPPLY FOR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSCO-MEZ I |
| Location | PEZA, Mactan, Economic Zone I, Airport Road, Lapu-lapu City, Philippines |
| Brief Description | ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, TRANSFORMERS & WATTHOUR DEMAN METERS |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P6,000,000.00 |
| Contract Duration | THREE (3) MONTHS |
| Delivery Period | THREE (3) MONTHS from the receipt of the winning bidder of the Notice or Award and signing of the Conract with MEZ I. |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 24 months, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Awards of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows

| ACTIVITIES | SCHEDULE |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | June 10 to June 17, 2005 |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | June 23, 2005 2:00 P.M. |
| 3. Opening of Bids | July 4, 2005 2:00 P.M. |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | July 5, 2005 |
| 5. Post-qualification | July 12, 2005 |
| 6. Notice of Award | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED (P2,500.00) 00/100 PESOS to the MEZ I Cashier.

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA
MEZ I BAC Chairperson

(PDI–June 10 & 17, 2005)

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : June 29, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC and TRANSCO stations.

SCHEDULE-I

| Item Description and Location | Minimum Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 1. One (1) lot of scrap metal consisting of junk heavy equipment, motor vehicles, steel tower parts, guy wires, and other junk items located at Santiago and Bayombong Substations. | P 1,050,300.00/lot |
| 2. One (1) lot junk substation equipment and materials located at Cabanatuan Substation, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija | P 249,000.00/lot |
| 3. One (1) lot of unserviceable and junk GPE items located at TRANSCO's Biñan Substation | P 122,500.00/lot |

SCHEDULE-II

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. One (1) lot of junk substation equipment and transmission line materials consisting of guy wires, aluminum OHGW, post and suspension insulators, current transformers, GI sheets, steel tower parts, junk Willy's Jeep and other junk items located at Kalayaan Warehouse, Kalayaan, Laguna | P 700,000.00/lot |

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS IS, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no 922-8431. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:00 p.m. June 28, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - June 8, 9 & 10, 2005)

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MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority through its BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) with office address at Mactan, Lapu Lapu City, invites all interested Contractors with at least Five (5) years of relevant experience in PABX Telephone System installation works or a Joint Venture of similar experience to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply, install & commissioning of PABX Telephone System of the MCIAA. The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php10,000,000.00.
2. The scope of works includes but not limited to the following:
   "Supply / Install & Commissioning of a complete PABX Telephone System (U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan "made" only) and its components at the Electronics & Communications Telephone Room"
3. Interested bidders shall submit a Letter of Intent and secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from the BAC Secretariat after payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents at BAC Office | June 4 to 14, 2005 |
| Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contractor's License | June 26, 2005 |
| Distribution of Bid Documents at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 | July 12, 13 & 14, 2005 |
| Pre-Bid Conference | July 21, 2005 at 10:00 AM |
| Bid Opening | August 3, 2005 at 10:00 AM |

4. For more detailed information, the bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2486 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617
5. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution.
6. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offers most advantageous to the Government

(Sgd.) M/GEN. ADELBERTO F. YAP (Ret)
General Manager

(PDI–June 4 & 10, 2005)

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MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority through its BID and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) with office address at Mactan, Lapu Lapu City, invites all interested individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and cooperatives with at least five (5) years experience in airport vegetation control and maintenance works to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project: VEGETATION AND TERMITE COLONY CONTROL AT AIRSIDE of MCIAA. The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 5,260,409.02 for one (1) year covering a green area of approximately 220 hectares.
2. Interested bidders shall submit a Letter of Intent and secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from the BAC Secretariat after payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents at BAC Office | June 4 to 14, 2005 |
| Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contractor's License | June 21, 2005 |
| Distribution of Bid Documents at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 | July 4, 5 & 6, 2005 |
| Pre-Bid Conference | July 6, 2005 at 10:00 AM |
| Bid Opening | July 20, 2005 at 10:00 AM |

4. For more detailed information, the bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2486 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617.
5. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution.
6. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) M/GEN. ADELBERTO F. YAP (Ret)
General Manager

(PDI–June 4 & 10, 2005)

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BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

# Stop being copycats, create ads that sell and win awards

ONG

Whatever medals the country wins are 'few and sporadic and are more *tsamba*'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TWENTY one years after it was created, the Creative Guild of the Philippines, whose members include the most creative minds in local advertising, is "still finding our voice" and remains a group of "copycats and wannabes."

This, according to its founding president, Yoly V. Ong, group chair and executive creative director of the Campaigns and Grey advertising agency.

There's more. She says the guild is "reflective of the Filipino society; has a long way to go; is craftsmanship in production; copywriting and art direction is still not there."

But these criticisms are not only from her. Ong says she talked to CEOs, creative directors, accounts people, about the state of the creativity of advertising agencies. Her talk was based on these comments, to which she largely agreed with.

She adds that the Philippines has yet to win in the major creative awards; and whatever awards the country gets are "few and sporadic and are more *tsamba*."

## Lost identity

The people she talked to trace the seeming inability to produce great, creative ads to a lack of a sense of self among Filipinos.

"We are not into our own history and culture. Our tendency is to be like the American and the Brits, we have lost our identity."

And because this did not work, often the creative people make ads that shock—forgetting the main purpose of creating an ad—to sell the product.

Ong spoke during the creative summit last Tuesday which carried the theme "Kalat Mulat Angat." Her talk, Creative Guild: Bente na, benta na ba? was a candid assessment of the guild, which was set up in April 1984 with the objectives of: to be globally competitive, to underscore the value of creativity in the Marker Mix, to upgrade the quality and professionalism of practitioners; and to foster collegiality in a competitive, creative community.

She says of the objectives she personally helped set, only the professionalizing of the members has so far been reached. She cites that today formal education on advertising in available.

## Not all pessimistic

But her talk was not all pessimistic. She points out that the guild and Filipinos in general can. And that the country is getting there but "very slowly." There are encouraging signs of creative advertising especially in traditionally boring products like laundry and personal care.

"But something in the environment stops us. Are clients too afraid? Some clients are conservative; they don't want to show our vulnerabilities. But why can't we convince them?"

Ong admits that "major global advertisers have very safe campaigns seeking the lowest common denominator: cross borders without alienating and offending."

"We have to convince the client that creativity sells," she adds. "We have to make case for creativity in a language that client will understand."

One stumbling bloc to selling creativity to clients is that awards are not meaningful to clients and that creative marketing successes are few and far between.

Barriers notwithstanding, Ong poses the question: where do we want to be?

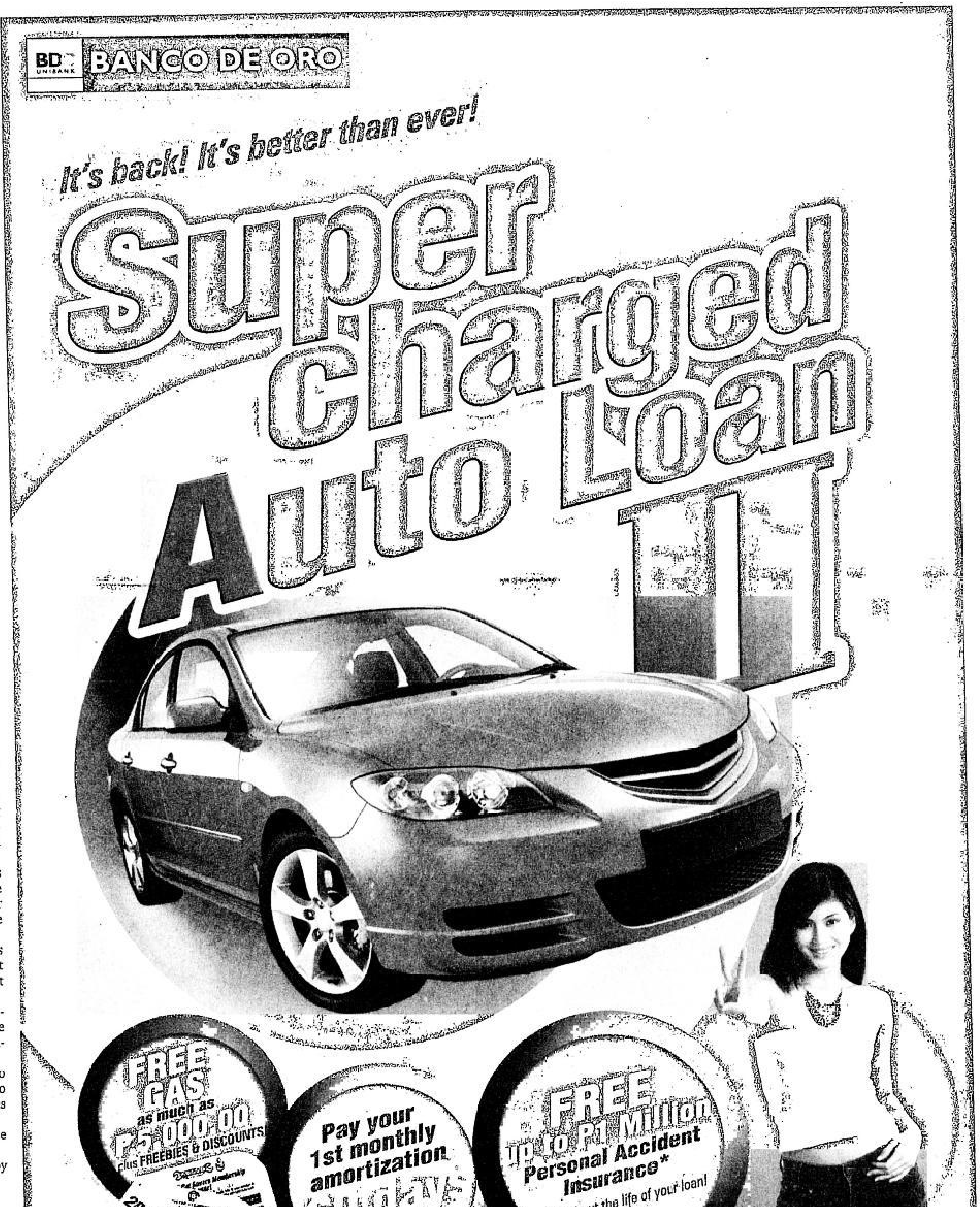
She enumerates the answers given her by the people she "surveyed."

1. Surpassing Thailand in reputation.
2. Be in the global creative radar.
3. Have our own genre of Pinoy ads: grittier and more profound like the movies of famed director Lino Brocka; not irreverent like Thailand ads but meatier, more philosophical, introspective, thought-provoking.
4. Develop more originality, think outside of usual Western influences and paradigms.
5. Local clients should stop emulating multinationals and should enjoy their freedom from formula advertising.
6. Mine deeper insights. Have emotions: feelings we want to see to be touched.
7. Go back to basics. Remember our task as advertising agencies (to sell products).

Now the tough question is: how to we get there? The answers Ong gathered include:

1. Get to know the market better—listen to them talk, look at how they dress.
2. Emotions are unique but universal.
3. Ads that move the market and will be remembered.
4. Create ads that win awards and sell.
5. Re-train the marketing people. Advertising is not just a science, information and market data. Advertising must entertain, to be able to connect, to make customers warm up to the brand, to make people buy.
6. Get to know our history.

STOP BEING/ B2-2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# DA helps bring vegetables from farms to markets

**By Christine A. Gaylican and Juan Escandor Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MURA NA, MASUSTANSYA PA!
Chopsuey
MayGulay
MURA NA, MASUSTANSYA PA!
MURA NA, MASUSTANSYA PA!
Sinigang
₱25 lang!

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Agriculture creates new packaging for the ingredients of popular Filipino vegetable dishes.

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture launched a new project that gets rid of several layers of middlemen of vegetables used in three popular Filipino dishes—pinakbet, chopsuey and sinigang—which are brought to Metro Manila from various provinces, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap announced yesterday.

Dubbed "My Gulay Project," this new tack is aimed at directly linking the farmers to vegetable retailers and wholesalers in Metro Manila..

Yap said in a press briefing that the project would hopefully lower the post-harvest losses that the DA estimates normally hits P14 billion a year. It is intended to improve the farmers' income and ease vegetable prices and ensure a continuous supply of vegetables.

The DA said that aside from acquiring vegetables from Northern Luzon farmers, the DA will also acquire from other alternative vegetable farms in the Southern Tagalog region including Laguna and Quezon provinces to shore up the supply.

The produce transported through reefer vans are turned over to Basic Necessities Inc. for the air-sealed packaging.

Yap noted that with the "My Gulay" project, each vegetable pack passes through hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) certified processing facilities guaranteeing hygienic preparation for each package.

"Under normal circumstances, the plastic-packed vegetables have a nominal shelf life of about three days. The product packs we are introducing when refrigerated can even last for a week," according to Yap.

## 'Huwarang palengke'

Another marketing initiative of the DA directly links the vegetable producers to public and privately owned wet markets in the metropolis.

Under the Huwarang Palengke concept, Yap recognizes that the practice of supply chain integration will also break down the distribution layers. The said distribution layers commonly attributed to the middlemen have also caused higher retail prices of the agricultural produce.

"There is a need for a strong market linkup and we are identifying the weaknesses of each participating market in terms of acquiring their source of produce," he says

He cites that as an instance, the Farmers Market in Quezon City needs a steady supply of fresh vegetables and the DA has coordinated with the Benguet farmers to provide the supply.

He mentions that the agency also assisted the Marikina City-based wet markets that has a weak linkage with livestock and poultry producers.

"The DA has provided the trucks to bring in the produce and so far it is working well," he says.

The DA's intervention has actually lowered the price of agricultural produce sold in these markets which has been lowered by P15 to P20 a kilo.

The Huwarang Palengke also boosts agri-business activities as it encourages private and public markets to institutionalize their operations.

Yap says the program involves the agency's constant monitoring of prices of food products being sold in wet markets in Metro Manila and other cities to check which one provides the cheapest price, enforces the law that protects consumer against malpractice including short selling or under weighing of commodities and having the most conducive physical arrangement inside the market that promotes of hygiene and sanitation.

"We will coordinate with a mobile phone service provider to update consumers where they could access cheap agricultural produce in the public and private wet markets in the city," says Yap.

## Ready for delivery

Hector Sales, DA regional director in Bicol, said his office has already identified and negotiated with a certain Lyndon Tan, a Bicolano wholesaler in Metro Manila, who will become one of the farmers' links to Metro Manila consumers.

Sales said that starting this month, Tan is ready to negotiate deliveries of tens of thousands of kilos of vegetables from Bicol that are needed in cooking pinakbet, chopsuey and sinigang.

The DA director said the farmers here are being burdened by low farmgate prices because of the control of at least two layers of middlemen between them and the wholesalers and retailers.

"With two layers of middlemen eliminated, the prices of vegetables sold by the farmers will at least increase by 10 percent as well as achieve an equivalent ease in the final commodity price for the consumers," he opined.

Under the program, three sets of vegetable preparation—"pinakbet," "chopsuey" and "sinigang" packed in 500 grams or half a kilo pack, which is good for a family of five will be retailed at P25 each at supermarkets in Shoemart, Shopwise and Price Mart and Tindahan ni Gloria Rolling Stores.

He said the first wholesaler contacted needs a monthly supply of at least 61,000 kilos of bitter gourd, squash, string beans, eggplant and okra for pinakbet pack.

For the chopsuey pack, he said, the monthly supply needed is at least 38,000 kilos of Baguio beans, carrots, cauliflower and sweet pepper; 57,000 kilos of cabbage; 54,000 kilos of sayote; 8,000 kilos of sugar peas; and 6,000 kilos of broccoli.

Sales said that for the sinigang pack, the distributor needs a monthly supply of at least 30,000 kilos of *kangkong* (swamp cabbage), 92,000 kilos of taro tubers, 92 kilos of sitao and 15,000 kilos of red and green pepper.

The DA director said direct retail linkage follows approaches that link the producers to the retailers and the wholesalers in identified public and private markets in Metro Manila.

He added that these approaches, perceived to improve the lot of farmers, are to guide proximate regions and provinces to Metro Manila, including Bicol, to directly link at identified public and private markets like Farmers' Market in Quezon City, Aling Clara's Wet and Dry Market in Parañaque, People's Market in Marikina, Mutya ng Pasig in Pasig City and Polo Public Market in Valenzuela, to name a few.

Sales explained that "My Gulay" is actually a component of the department's translation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Medium-Term Development Plan, from 2005 to 2010.

He further explained that the DA has been tasked to formulate concrete interventions to achieve the MTDP's one and two goals.

The first goal, he said, targets to "develop at least 2 million hectares of new land for agribusiness and (the DA and its attached agencies are required to) contribute 2 million out of the 10 million jobs targeted at the end of 2010."

The DA director went on to say that the second goal is to "reduce costs of 'wage goods' through productivity enhancement, efficient logistics and marketing and improved retailing linkages."

Sales said the term "wage goods"—including rice, corn, chicken, eggs, pork, beef/carabeef, vegetables, tilapia and milkfish—is defined as goods that have an impact on the daily wage of ordinary employees or workers.

The other markets that were initially selected as pilot areas under the Huwarang Palengke project include the Muñoz Market, Aling Clara's Wet and Dry Market in Parañaque, Marikina Public Market, Concepcion Market and Peoples markets in Marikina City, Dagonoy Market in Manila, Mutya ng Pasig Market, the Polo Public Market in Valenzuela and the Public Market in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Included in the private markets in this year Huwarang Palengke project are Sangandaan Market in Caloocan City; Francis Market in Malabon City; Karuhatan and Malinta Wet and Dry Markets in Valenzuela City; New Arayat Market in Quezon City; Tejeros and Guadalupe Markets in Makati; Bicutan Market in Parañaque City and Moonwalk Market in Las Piñas City

For public markets, targeted to participate are Kaunlaran and Poblacion Market in Caloocan City, Concepcion Market in Malabon City, Commonwealth .Market in Quezon City; Libertad Public Market in Pasay City; Pamilihang Bayan ng Taguig in Taguig City; New Kalentong Market in Mandaluyong City; New Parang Market in Marikina City, Pritil Market in Manila and Agora Public Market in San Juan.

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# *IT zone to boost outsourcing sector*

**EDSA Central Pavilion and Square**

THE EMERGENCE of an IT zone at the Edsa Central Pavilion and Square is projected to help spur development in the country's business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

The 8,000 sq.m. of space designed by Greenfield inside the Edsa Central has been declared by the Philippine Export Zone Authority (Peza) as an information technology (IT) zone. It will be dedicated to call center operations and other BPO sectors: from legal and medical transcription to CAD engineering and animation—anything and everything that is related to IT-enabled businesses.

According to Jericho Go, Greenfield Development Corp. vice president for business development and leasing, what is happening is that it has become very expensive to do business for call centers in the US, Canada and in Europe. Companies in those places have to pay in dollar terms, and most call center employees in the US are not college graduates compared to the Philippines where we have a pool of graduates waiting to be absorbed.

To address this, firms have started outsourcing backroom operations. "What Greenfield is trying to do is position itself as a developer that is prepared to address that market."

Elmer San Pascual, investments and promotions manager of Peza, added that the call center industry is the fastest growing among IT businesses in the country. From 1,000 to 2,000 seats five years ago, the numbers had been doubling annually. This year, the conservative projection of government is that it will reach 60,000 seats while the private sector's is more optimistic at 80,000.

Located at the intersection of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard, Greenfield District can draw manpower from practically all points of Metro Manila. Go explains, "Even if you live all the way in Quezon City, or maybe Rizal, we can provide employees the convenience to get to work because we have a jeepney hub, an FX terminal. Imagine an office project or space that is literally connected to the MRT station."

Because there are many call center companies coming to the Philippines right now, less and less space are being made available in Metro Manila to address the requirement of the call center firms. That is why Greenfield is heeding the call of President Arroyo: "Let's continue the momentum, let's continue to produce the manpower, let's continue to create jobs," Go echoes. "The private sector will have to bring resources to answer the call."

Sitting at the heart of Metro Manila, Greenfield District is 23 hectares in size and it has vast tracks of land and single-story warehouse developments that can be easily converted or re-developed into four to five-story structures for call center operations.

San Pascual maintained that BPOs can even help spur the country's development: "Telephone companies will bring their technology into the area, even in the provinces, and power companies will ensure adequate or more than adequate supply ... it's going to be a chain. When we bring business to a particular place, it creates jobs for the people there and this will benefit everyone."

In five to seven years, Go hopes that the Philippine operations will "graduate to a higher value-added chain like software development, and start developing our technologies." Once the best-kept secret of the IT world, he says that now, "We want the Philippines to be known as the BPO capital of Asia, or of the world. Hopefully this can ensure a better future for the younger generation."

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# Oxygen in a can, anyone?

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

**FREDERICK Yu**

FREDERICK N. Yu was a fun-loving kid who loved to play. He loved playing so much it cost him a three-year delay in finishing elementary.

But for someone who finished grade 6 at 15, Frederick did not do bad.

He made his first million in his 20s. But with no responsibility and at the peak of his youth, this money went down the drain soon enough—what with nightly sprees at the Manila Hotel back in the late '80s, and buying five cars, "to have one for each day of the week."

He may have lost his first million but he earned more in his other ventures.

Today he is in a business that would cause some people's brows to rise. Or worse, elicit a laughter. But then that was how people reacted in the past when the notion of bottled water was first introduced. Today, bottled water is a huge business, even threatening the softdrinks industry. Even the poor buy bottled water.

Frederick set up Oxylife International Corp., a firm which puts pure oxygen in a can and sells this for P195 under the brand name Oxycan with the marketing line "life in a can."

## Laughed at

Fred admits some of his friends laughed at the idea of selling oxygen in canisters. But he was not deterred. He first saw oxygen cans in Indonesia and Europe.

Some bars in the Philippines have oxygen tanks that you can inhale from if you are already intoxicated in the belief that this will help keep you sober.

He explains, "if you're drunk, your sugar level goes down, you lack oxygen." Comes Oxycan to help you with your discomfort.

There are as yet no well-researched studies on the effectivity of inhaling pure oxygen but Frederick believes this can help athletes or those with asthma or those who have had too much to drink. He claims it is a good lung cleanser and can help maintain good skin.

Oxylife has already applied for registration with the Bureau of Food and Drug and is waiting for their decision. To date, it is distributed in around 200 outlets, in particular, badminton courts.

When Fred told his wife about Oxycan her only reply was he has gone into so many businesses, this would already be the last one.

## Entrepreneurial career

Yu's entrepreneurial career is quite impressive and diverse.

When he was 15 years old, just after graduating from elementary, his grandfather, the eldest brother of Mother Lily Monteverde, the known movie producer, gave him a car, a Brasilia. This started a passion for cars. He took an international correspondence course on automotive and when he was 18 he set up a car shop—a *talyer* using his life savings of P5,000.

His first customer was a classmate at the San Beda College and at that time the "in" thing was giving cars a "wet look" with paint. He set up the shop in the basketball court in their house in Manila.

It was either Yu was good or he was lucky but his business grew. He trained his own people. At one point he had 19 workers and state of the art equipment. He bought five cars—one for each day of the week he said.

He would treat his workers to food and drinks at the Manila Hotel almost nightly. The money did not last. And being young, he did not manage his people well, spoiling them. Soon he was a victim of pilferage and thievery, losing some of his expensive equipment.

After two to three years, he closed the business. By that time he was set to go to college at the University of Sto. Tomas enrolling in BS Science in Commerce, major in Management.

But the desire to earn and run a business was there so the next thing he entered into was mushroom growing.

He says he went to Japan to study mushroom culture and at one point had the second largest mushroom farm in the country. His farm was in Tagaytay and he would shuttle between the farm and his home. But a jealous technician destroyed the crop and he decided to close shop.

## Pursuing a passion

He took a breather from entrepreneurial pursuits and pursued a passion—flying. In 1993 he studied flying at the Sundia Flying School then took his commercial pilot course at the JF Super Air Services Corp.

He joined the Philippine Air Force Reserve in 1997 although he never did commercial flying.

The entrepreneur in him found a business in his passion and he went into setting up the communication system for many of the local airlines in the country like Aerolift, the now defunct Grand Air, Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines, Miascor, Manila International Airport Authority. He did this via Carlton Commercial, which he set up a year after the aviation industry was liberalized in 1993.

"I became known as an Aviation Communication Specialist," he says.

Today Frederick spends his time promoting Oxycan. He hopes this will help those who need oxygen regularly but cannot afford the medical oxygen set.

---

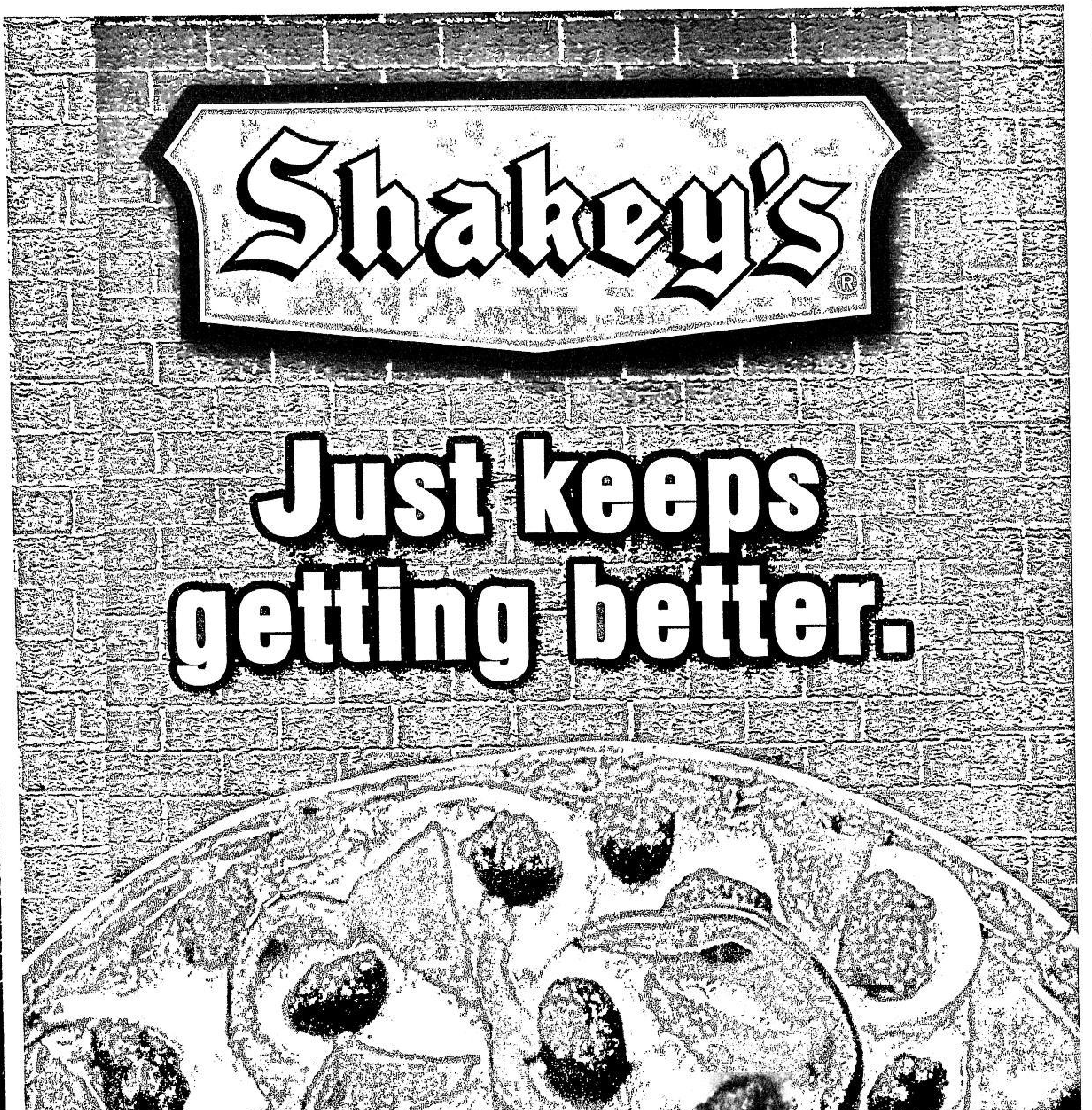
# Stop being copycats . . .

**From page B2-1**

7. Take ourselves lightly but seriously.
8. Go to Quiapo.
9. Search for what is real in our people.

Other speakers were Emily Abrera, chairman emeritus, McCann Erickson Philippines; group chair and executive creative director, Campaigns & Grey; Ompong Remigio, creative director, Campaigns & Grey; Melvin Mangada, managing partner and executive creative director, TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno; David Ferrer, CD, BBDO; Prasoon Joshi, regional executive creative director, McCann Erickson Asia Pacific; Mon Jimenez, joint CEO, JimenezBasic; Ham Singh, regional publisher, Adoi Magazine; Paul Prince of SweetShop Productions, New Zealand; Johnson Tan of Procolor Pte., Singapore; Peachy Pacquing, ECD, Grey Worldwide, Malaysia.

20/20 The Creative Guild's Vision On Its 20th Year


Shakey's®
Just keeps
getting better.

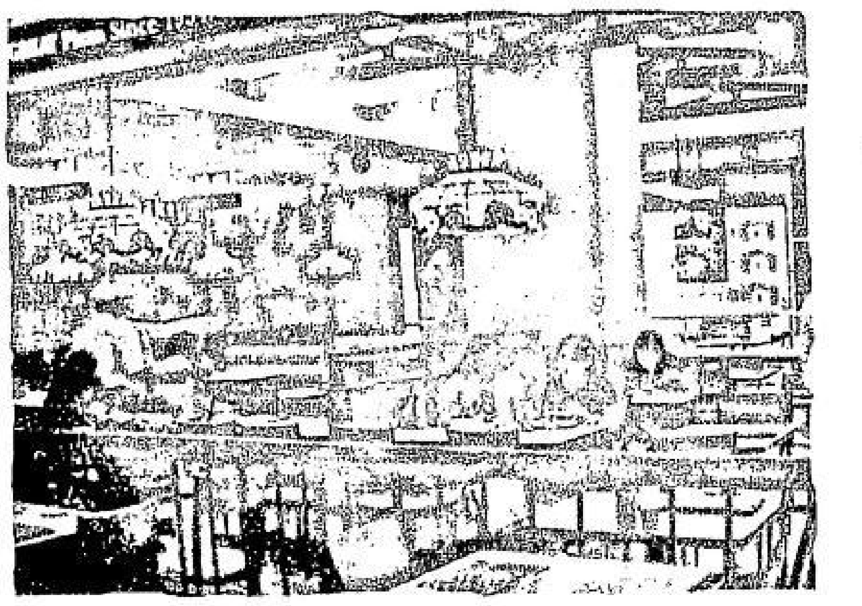
Sha
30
years and bet

### 30 SHAKIN' YEARS.

Filipinos' love affair with Shakey's began in 1975, the year Shakey's opened its first pizza parlor in Makati Avenue. Everybody soon took notice of the "unique concept" and its "crisp pie" that will shape the taste of years to come.

### PIZZA PERFECT AND MORE.

When you say pizza, nothing comes to mind like a Shakey's original thin crust. Often imitated but never outdone, it's pizza like no other. Every bite is a perfect harmony of flavors that melts in your mouth. The secret lies in the way the pizza is made, with only the freshest ingredients, lovingly prepared and brick oven-baked to perfection. A perfect combination of cheese, sauce, toppings, and dough in the right proportions. Shakey's flavors that have been household names since 1975 are: MANAGER'S CHOICE, SHAKEY'S SPECIAL, FRIDAY'S SPECIAL, GARLIC AND CHEESE, HAWAIIAN DELIGHT, HI-PROTEIN SUPREME. And who can forget these well-loved originals: Yummy MOJOS, fantastic BUNCH OF LUNCH, timeless CHICK N CHIPS, real thick old-fashioned SUPER SHAKES, and a whole lot more.



### A FAMILIAR LOOK WITH A TWIST.

Sometime late 2003, Shakey's rolled out a new look...A very familiar but at the same time a fresh look to the eyes of the Filipino consumer. Many stores now sport a warm and wholesome setting that goes perfect with its great food offerings and friendly, sincere service. Shakey's stores are ideal for spending time with your loved one, family, "barkada" and even business meetings.

### SHAKEY'S SHARES ITS SECRETS.

**COMMITMENT.**
The secret to our longevity and growth lies in our commitment to deliver superior value to our guests. We aim to WOW OUR GUESTS... Exceed and not just meet their expectations.

**PRODUCT INNOVATION.**
This is best seen in the way Shakey's has introduced innovative products that are of high quality and high value. Recently, it was Super Platter, Summer Salads and Ice Cream Bar. Now we're doing it again with Monster Meatballs Spaghetti and the new Classic Italian Sausage Pizza.

**CELEBRATIONS ARE MORE FUN AT SHAKEY'S!**
It's the best party package out there. Complete with games, mascots and the widest food choices that only Shakey's can give.

HAPPY
VINCE

Kids will surely love our pizza, chicken, spaghetti and yummy mojos. Mom and friends will love our salads and soups, and Dad will enjoy a round of beer with his friends. There's really something for everyone...

So, whether it's a birthday party, a baptismal celebration, a company meeting or even a reunion with old friends and colleagues, we guarantee a party that is unique and hassle-free. A fun experience for everyone because...Nothing Shakes like a Shakey's Celebration!

Shakey's
On Time or On Us!
We Deliver!
533·8000

# key's®

# tter than ever

## 30-YEAR SHAKIN' SPECIAL OFFER!

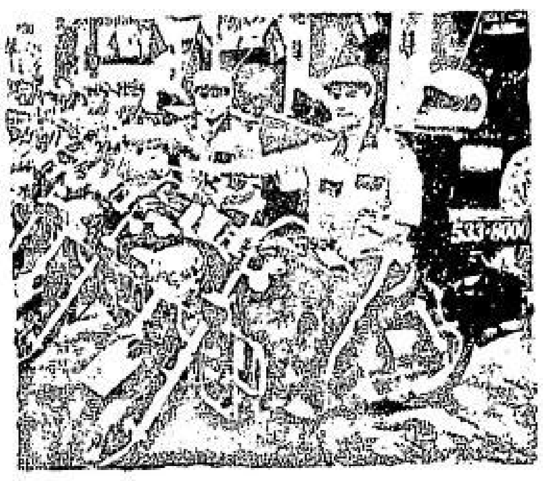
*Cut out this coupon and bring it to any Shakey's pizza parlor and get any of the following delicious deals!*

**P30 FOR MOJOS & DIP.**
**SAVE P35!**

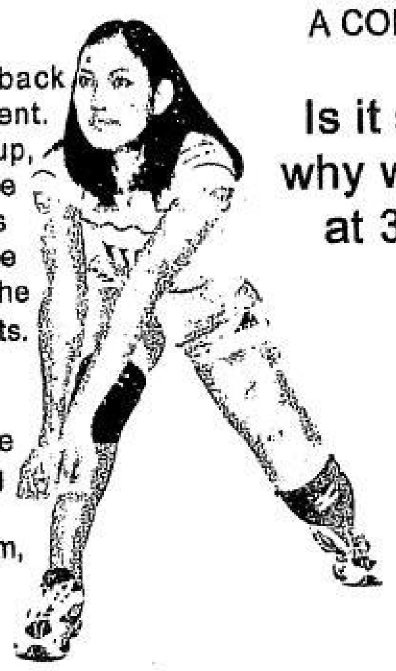
**P30 FOR ROOTBEER FLOAT.**
**SAVE P18!**

**Promo Mechanics:**
Coupon is valid from June 10-13, 2005.
Cut and present this coupon before ordering.
Valid for dine-in at all Shakey's restaurants.
One coupon per person/transaction only.
Not valid with other promos or discounts.
Exclusive of 10% service charge.

The mother of all delivery guarantees. A pioneering promise that if your order doesn't arrive within the guaranteed time, you GET EVERYTHING YOU ORDERED FREE RIGHT THEN AND THERE! IT'S THAT SIMPLE! Try us now! Call 533-8000 for Metro Manila stores.



Shakey's introduced the PIZZANATIC Card for those who can't get enough of pizza. Guests who purchase the PIZZANATIC Card gets a FREE Hawaiian Delight or Pepperoni pizza of the same crust and size everytime they purchase a large or party pizza with a drink order. Valid for take-out or delivery orders.

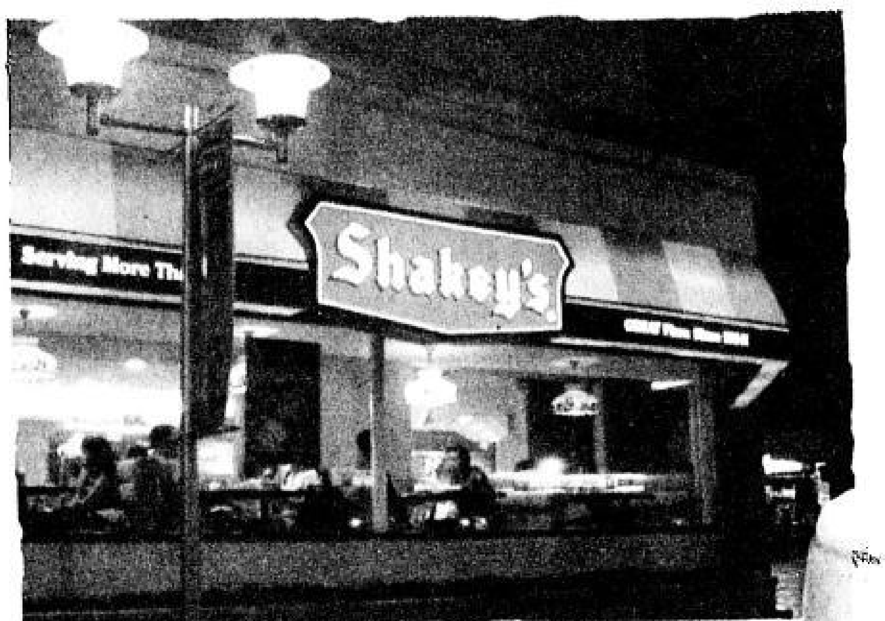


**SHAKEY'S CARES.**
Shakey's V-League is our way of giving back to the community through sports development. Partnering with the Sports Vision Management Group, Inc., this pioneering effort aims to raise Philippine Women's Volleyball to world-class level. In this country's sports scene dominated by men, we believe that the Shakey's V-League provides Filipino women the venue to shine and be recognized in the world of sports.

**THE FRANCHISE SYSTEM.**
We believe in lasting business partnerships that create a win-win set-up. That's the reason why our franchising program is still growing strong after 30 years! If you want to know more about our franchising program, please see the next page.

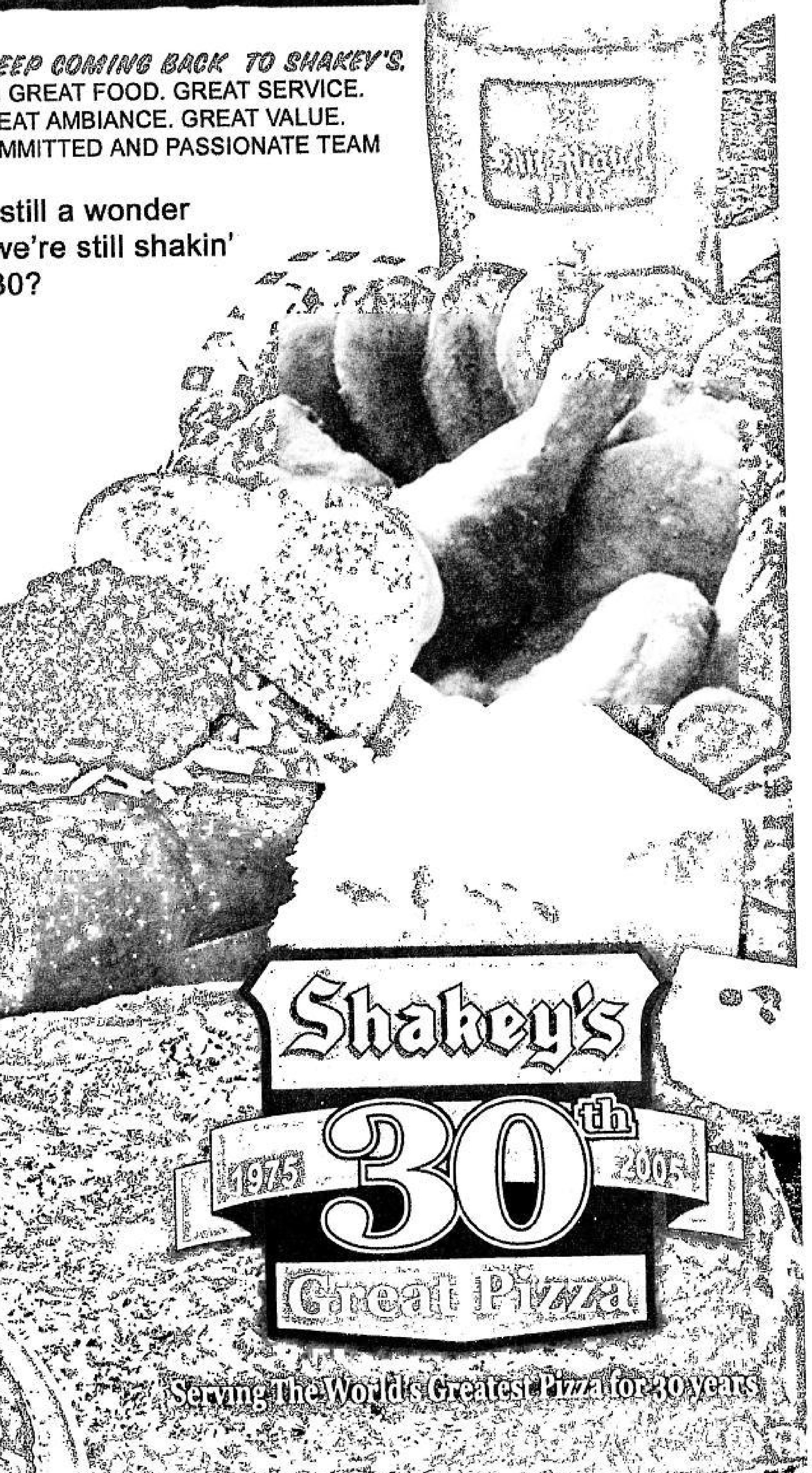
**PEOPLE—OUR BIGGEST SECRET!**
The Shakey's team is composed of young, creative, and energetic people committed to the vision of making the company "THE LEADING AND PREFERRED PIZZA RESTAURANT IN THE PHILIPPINES."

We encourage a culture of excellence. We strive to create an environment that encourages our people to become the best that they can be. In Shakey's, "GOOD IS NOT ENOUGH."



*YOU'LL KEEP COMING BACK TO SHAKEY'S.*
WITH GREAT FOOD. GREAT SERVICE.
GREAT AMBIANCE. GREAT VALUE.
A COMMITTED AND PASSIONATE TEAM

Is it still a wonder
why we're still shakin'
at 30?



Shakey's
1975 30th 2005
Great Pizza

Serving The World's Greatest Pizza for 30 years

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 177, Series of 2005. Promo Period is from June 10-13, 2005.

## SHAKEY'S BUSINESS IS GREAT BUSINESS.

With a proven brand and a track record of 30 years, Shakey's shares its opportunities to the right partners who trust in the Shakey's name. Shakey's has grown to 86 stores nationwide and still growing.

Some reasons why Shakey's is probably the best franchise investment in the market:

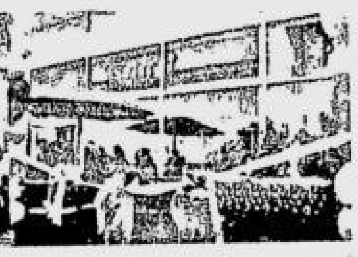
- A very low investment requirement for a major food brand
- Proven brand and franchise support system
- Fantastic ROI proposition

**JOIN THE SHAKEY'S FAMILY NOW!**

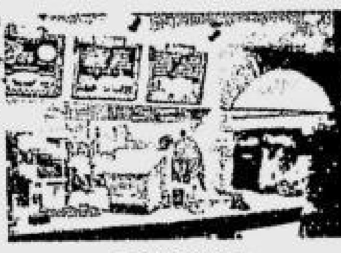
Interested parties may call or send their letter of interest thru fax at telephone number **839-01-62** or call **839-01-55 or 60** and look for Ms. Annie S. Manzano (Franchise and Business Director).

LOYOLA

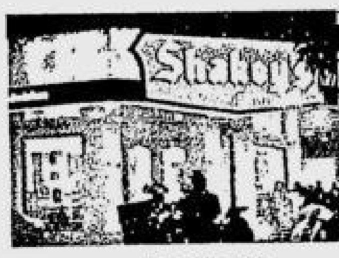
AYALA, CEBU


SM BAGUIO

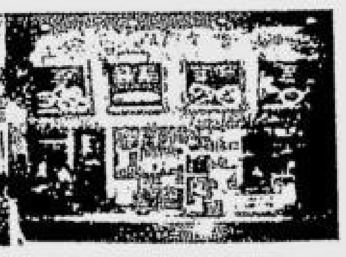
GILMORE

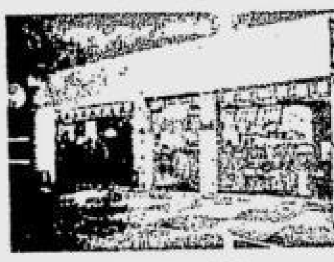

NEPO MALL

SYCAMORE


BF HOMES

FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL


ROBINSONS GALLERIA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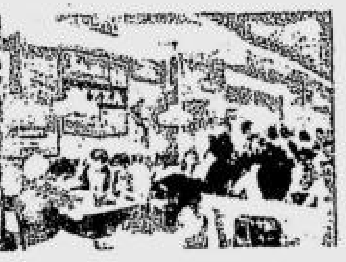
HARRISON PLAZA


LA SALLE, TAFT

# We Deliver Profits!

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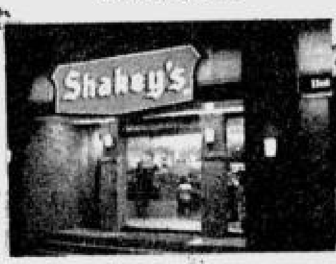
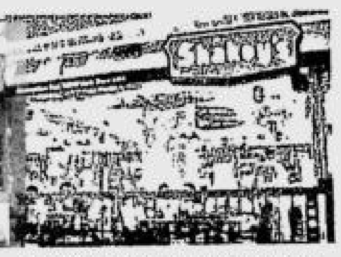
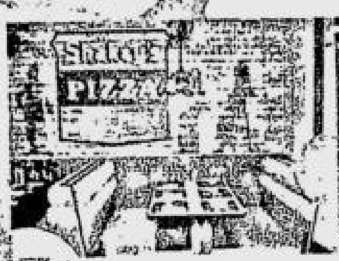

MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE

MANDALUYONG CIRCLE


ROBINSONS METRO EAST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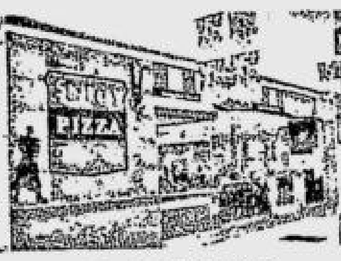
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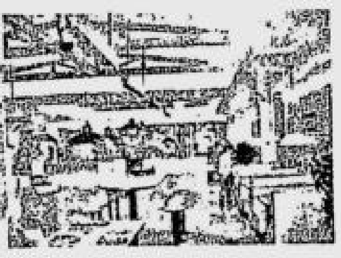
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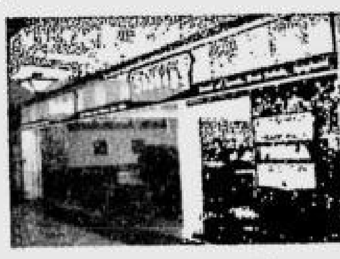
FESTIVAL MALL

GLORIETTA

SM BACOOR

Shakey's
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SM MARILAO

STA. LUCIA EAST MALL

UNIOIL, SUCAT

### OTHER "NEW" IMAGE SHAKEY'S STORES:

- UN OROSA
- EVER COMMONWEALTH
- ROBINSONS MANILA
- PAVILLION MALL, BIÑAN
- ROBINSONS METRO BACOLOD
- TACLOBAN
- GENERAL SANTOS, COTABATO
- CSI MALL LA UNION
- ROBINSONS PIONEER
- SM ILOILO
- MALATE
- SAN PEDRO
- ERMITA
- ROBINSONS PLACE BACOLOD
- SM DELGADO ILOILO
- VIGAN (SOON)
- LIMKETKAI MALL, CDO (SOON)

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The country's leader in fabrication, importation and after-sales service provider of quality kitchen equipment & architectural metal systems
GOMECO Metal Corporation
Multi - Mech International
Technical Management Services

# Personalities endorse coco biodiesel in TV commercial

BAGUIO CITY—In a soon-to-be shown 10-minute video, actor Joel Torre holds a mug with "Fuels 4 Life Movement" printed on it as he extolled the virtues of alternative fuel.

He may be drinking coffee but it should not be a surprise that he is drinking the miracle product, coco biodiesel, which is after all edible.

Torre, broadcaster Ernie Baron and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri offered their services for free for a 30-seconder to be shown on TV promoting alternative fuels.

A 10-minute educational video will also be viewed soon in the more than 200 buses running on compressed natural gas (CNG).

Alternative or indigenous fuels include CNG, cocobiodiesel and ethanol fuel.

The audiovisual presentation was unveiled during the launching of "Fuels 4 Life Movement" last Friday at the Nicotina Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard.

Zubiri says that he did not mind being the "poster boy of alternative fuels." "I never was prograndstanding in Congress. It's just that the idea (alternative fuels) is an advocacy of mine and I wouldn't mind selling the idea to the people," he says.

In the video, Zubiri even drives the CNG bus even as he talks about the benefits of switching to alternative fuels.

"This is the wave of the future. Oil prices will soon be selling for $100 a barrel. We will surely run out of fossil fuels. We need to find alternative fuels now," he says.

"As it turns out, our fuels will be planted in soil like ethanol (alternative fuel targeting gasoline-powered engines which is produced from sugarcane), cocodiesel and sweet sorghum (another source of ethanol)." Zubiri is the author of the House bill, which pushes for renewable energy.

Zubiri also says that his tourism-oriented TV magazine show, Team Explorer, also explores renewable energy.

"I remember someone saying that anybody who invests in the future now will win," he says.

"We have many strong advocates in the entertainment industry. And we are aware of the strength of the entertainment industry in getting people interested in alternative fuels," says Divina Chingcuanco, country director of the sustainable energy development program.

During the launching of "Fuels 4 Life Movement," a fashion show was presented with various personalities like lawyer and former beauty queen Zoraida Andam and recent bar topnotcher January Sanchez wearing T-shirts, mugs, ballpens and bags with the F4LM sign. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

JOEL Torre (second from right) with production people.

# Being accountable for marketing results

From page B2-8

keting and finance should work together in developing the marketing metrics for measuring marketing accountability. In many companies, there is a "wall" that divides these two departments. This divide must be bridged. If such a divide prevails in your own company, that's the starting point in this metrics development process.

If there's this divide, you must take the initiative in its elimination. How? Insist that your company's finance manager or president be part of your marketing planning sessions.

Yes, we can hear you groan over that Rx. But there are more pluses to doing this than minuses. For one, over the course of the planning, the finance manager begins to understand why you're asking for so much money for advertising. This helps you avoid the typical budget–planning situation where finance recommends cuts in your marketing budget. Often, it does this because they do not understand what you in marketing are trying to do. So finance bases its recommendation on your past year's budget or past years' budget increases. Or on what it knows competition is budgeting. All these cast doubt on your figures. When finance is there at the very start of the planning process, you can get finance to buy into your program. You therefore gain an ally.

On your end, the marketing team begins to appreciate the need for you to seriously consider the financial implications of your marketing decisions and activities. You gain insights into the concepts of cost management and cost accounting.

It is also easier to creatively arrive at a set of realistic and fair marketing accountability metrics when your marketing department is working with finance. Consider for instance the idea of demonstrating the profit impact of your marketing programs.

In working with finance, marketing has persuaded finance to redefine profit as "marketing contribution" and not as net profit. That's the profit figure that results after deducting marketing expenditures from gross profit. Calling the resultant figure "contribution" highlights its character of providing the funds for covering other company costs and net profit. It's the profit that marketing can be held responsible for and for which it has direct control.

## Hold agencies accountable

Now let's proceed to the second portion in this task of developing realistic and fair marketing accountability metrics. This has to do with marketing now asking its agencies in advertising, promos, sales and distribution, market research, and so on to be accountable for results.

So within marketing, it is understandable to find that the call for accountability is just as loud. Aside from the trend toward more transparency, the continuing fragmentation of the marketing functions has contributed to this welcome development for accountability.

A generation or two ago, marketers used to do advertising, sales promotions, and marketing research by itself. Today, this is being outsourced. Sales and distribution used to be under the direct management of the marketing department. Now, distributors do these functions. As a consequence, most marketing departments in large companies have been reduced to coordinators.

There is a positive side to this fragmentation. The need for close coordination among the agencies charged with implementing the outsourced marketing functions intensified the demand for accountability and the use of appropriate performance metrics. There has been a steady progress in the development of marketing metrics for this purpose. This is marketing mix's share of market ratio as the product of its three component ratios relating to three marketing mix elements. These are: (1) the reach ratio, an advertising performance metric; (2) the conversion ratio, consumer promo's performance metric; and (3) the retention ratio, a consumer product satisfaction metric.

Here, the development of realistic and fair accountability metrics should also be a partnership work of the marketing organization and agencies concerned.

The work involved must be direct at two things. One is to generate a complete and exhaustive set of marketing performance ratios. That's the quantitative side of the job.

There's the other qualitative side. That side is concerned with the issue of priority. This issue asks: Which metric is more important than the other? Or, Which metric has, for example, more impact on profit?

Consider the case of market share ratio versus customer satisfaction ratio. The study of Harvard's Robert Buzzell has shown that customer satisfaction has a greater long-term profit impact than market share gains. High and sustained customer satisfaction leads to greater consumer loyalty. Greater customer loyalty increases a company's profit more than market share increases.

Where does this leave us?

First, it's clear that the definitive book on marketing accountability is yet to be written. So in the meantime:

1. Develop your needed marketing ratios by bringing the finance department and the marketing partner agencies into the planning process.

2. Determine which accountability metrics are important to you. So direct your metrics development process towards not only producing a complete set of realistic and fair accountability metrics but also toward relating the different metrics among themselves in terms of relative priority and importance.

*Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-3145412.*

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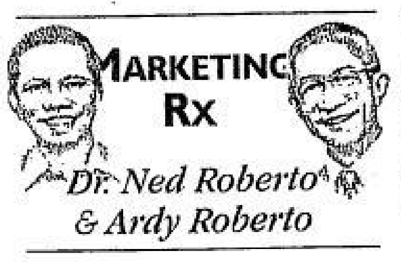
# Being accountable for marketing results



*Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto*

Q: I'M THE MARKETING head for a canned food company. We just completed our corporate strategy. Our president is a finance person and one of the things he got my marketing department to commit to was to "be accountable for the money we're giving you to support your approved marketing activities." The accountability he wants is for "target sales and profit." How do we get back to him and tell him that profit and even sales are not the sole responsibility of marketing? I said "even sales" because if manufacturing is late in producing the products or if finance is late in releasing the money for the raw material purchase, the advertising and promo, etc., sales will suffer. How should we set-up a realistic and fair accountability system that we can propose to our top management?

A: First, it's good that you are conscious about your department's contributory role (and not sole determinant) for profit and sales results. It's even better to see that you've not given up on top management because you intend to go back and propose a "realistic and fair accountability" system. So let's start our diagnosis with your search for a "realistic and fair accountability."

Marketers have long been asked to be accountable. But it was after the Enron scandal that accountability became a major concern in corporate governance. In fact, many equate governance with accountability.

And so accountability has also become an urgent issue in marketing. That's because most companies still can't answer the question about the profitability and (as you put it) "even the sales" impact of their ad and promo campaigns, their PR and sponsorships, the change in their product's packaging or distributor, etc. It's also rare to find a company that can give accurate data on the profitability of its geographical sales areas, sales teams, market segments, or retail customer accounts. Marketers therefore don't have good marketing performance ratios that serve the accountability function.

### Accountability metrics

The essential task is to develop realistic and fair accountability metrics. Do this in two parts: develop your accountability metrics to your in-house "partners" (e.g. the finance department, manufacturing, etc.), and develop accountability metrics for the outsourced marketing functions like advertising, sales promotion, sales and distribution, etc. of your marketing department.

Let's analyze your first task: your accountability to other departments in the company especially finance.

A good way to approach the development of the accountability metrics is to benchmark against "best practice." That best practice should be finance with their financial ratios.

How were those ratios developed? They were formulated over a period of time "according to generally accepted accounting and auditing principles"

### Work together

In your specific case, those assessors are the executives in finance and in marketing. So, mar-

BEING/ B2-7

## HOW FAR CAN YOUR PESO TAKE YOU?

Amidst the already trying times, and despite the recent rollback in gasoline prices, many publicly utilized jeepney transport groups still continue to appeal to the government for a fare increase.

Like a stone thrown into a puddle creating waves, whatever small change in the price of something as simple as jeepney fare could trigger a string of price hikes. Basic food items hauled from the provinces would have slight price increases to cope with the change in fuel prices and even the cost of transporting goods for trade and consumption would be affected. Businessmen and employees likewise suffer from this tipping of the scale as their budgets will have to take in the extra blows. Thus, minimum wages will also have to follow suit.

It is amazing how something as little as the amount of money spent on mileage can make such an impact.

But how far can a liter of fuel take you? How can we maximize the means to save on our fuel expenses? What options do we have? These are only a few of the questions that most motorists ask themselves now that fuel price is a big deal on their budgets. Fuel economy becomes a key issue and a relevant factor in deciding the vehicle fit for the times. Considering how hard it is to earn money nowadays, every peso we so painstakingly make should be spent wisely. That is why to most people, practicality is the name of the game. Vehicles that can combine fuel-efficiency with comfort and safety features present a possible solution to empty pockets.

Practical Vehicles like the **Hyundai Matrix CRDi** have to step up to the plate and help uplift the plight of today's generation through innovations and developments that provide what the market needs: combined comfort, safety, power and fuel efficiency. Hyundai's revolutionary CRDi or Common Rail Direct Injection diesel engine technology ushers in a new era in fuel economy for the Philippine motoring market.

Equipped with the ground-breaking CRDi or CRDi Turbo intercooler diesel engine, the Matrix delivers more power and torque at a wide rpm range. Its sleek European-inspired design, versatile styling, spacious interior, and numerous comfort and safety features, embody an exquisite mix suited for the Philippine motorist. This is probably why the **Hyundai Matrix CRDi** can be considered as the Most Practical Vehicle of the road.

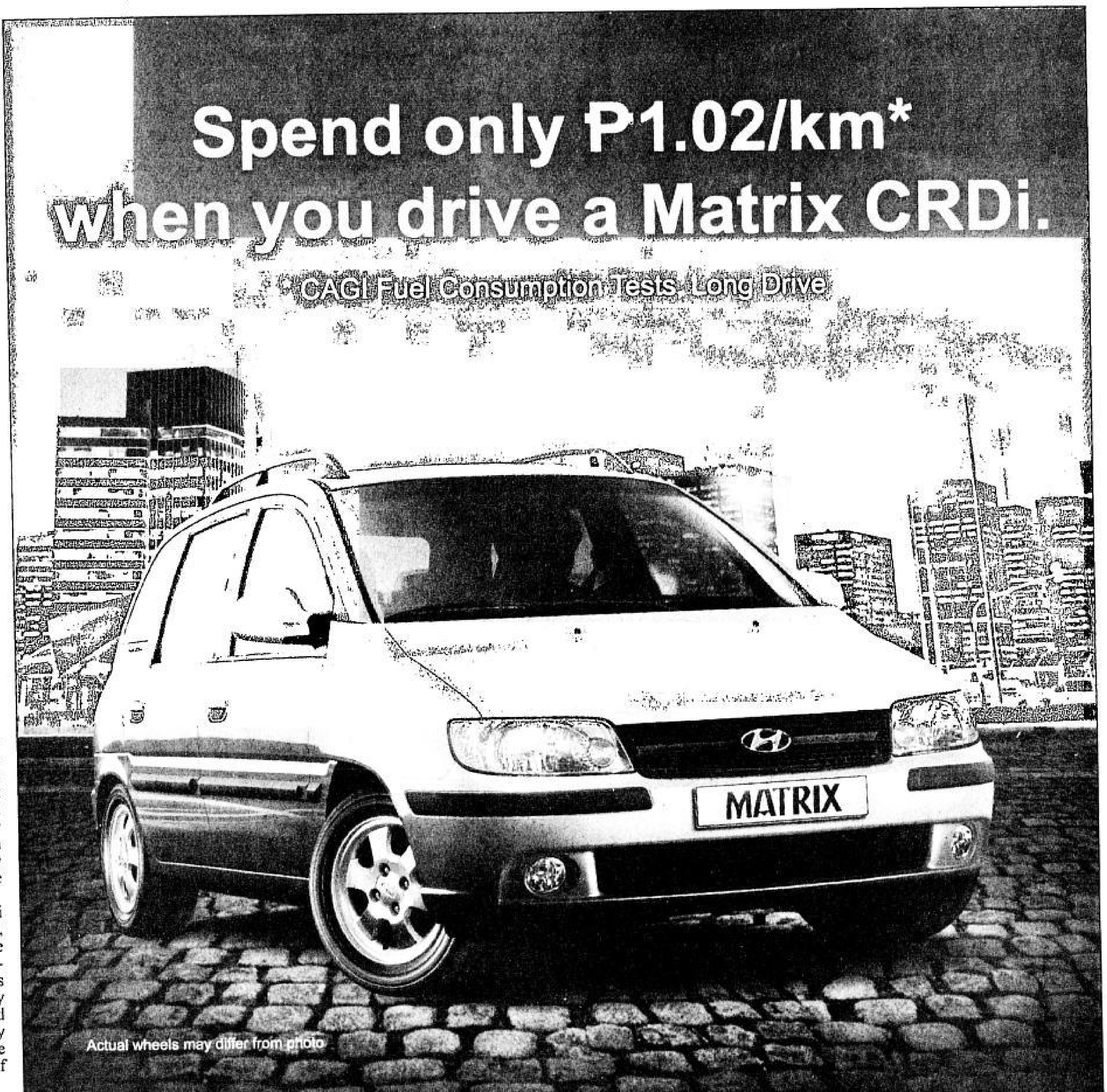
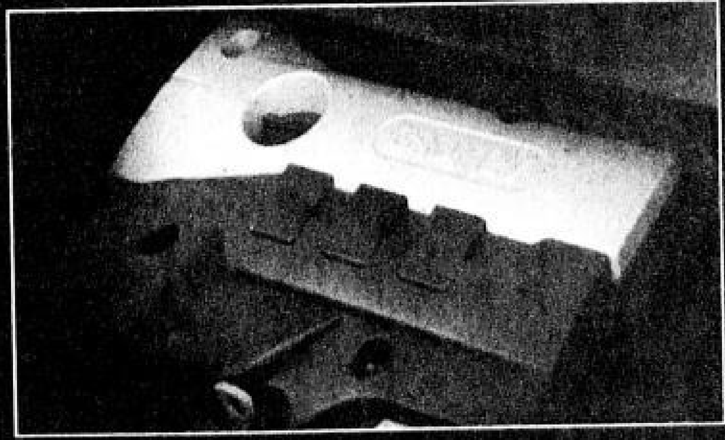
The **Hyundai Matrix CRDi** also has excellent fuel economy as attested by the Car Awards Group, Incorporated's (CAGI) President, Mr. Armin A. Amio last March 17, 2005 in a distance drive test. Conditions were set with their air conditioner blower on setting no. 2, at maximum rpm of 2500 and at a speed of 80kph. Results pointed out that the **Matrix CRDi** was able to reach **13.01 km/liter** during city driving. Roughly put, that is about **P2.01 per kilometer.** Metropolitan drivers like you can enjoy the most from your money in every kilometer. And more mileage for your money means you can save up on frequent fueling. As for long drives, the Matrix was able to cover **25.1km/liter**; that's as little as **P1.02 per kilometer** of diesel fuel. Exhausting drives to out-of-town locations don't have to be so expensive. Now, you can get to your desired destination faster using less fuel.

These CAGI test results were calculated during the time when the price of diesel fuel was at P25.25. At present, fuel prices continue to fluctuate, making it hard to decisively set a proper benchmark for the research. Nonetheless, these findings show the important difference CRDi diesel engine technology can make in terms of sensibility.

To round things up, the Matrix proves that a vehicle as comfortable and beautiful as itself does have more to offer in terms of fuel efficiency, mileage and fuel economy. That that extra centavo or kilometer could mean the difference between a few hundred pesos saved from constant refueling or more money guzzled by your fuel tank.

Discover the practical advantage of other CRDi equipped Hyundai vehicles like the **Starex** and **Tucson** (too'-sahn). There's always a vehicle waiting to fit your lifestyle and needs. With Hyundai, we let you drive your way.

Head to your nearest Hyundai dealer to learn more about the **Matrix CRDi**. Test drive one today.



Spend only P1.02/km* when you drive a Matrix CRDi.
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Actual wheels may differ from photo
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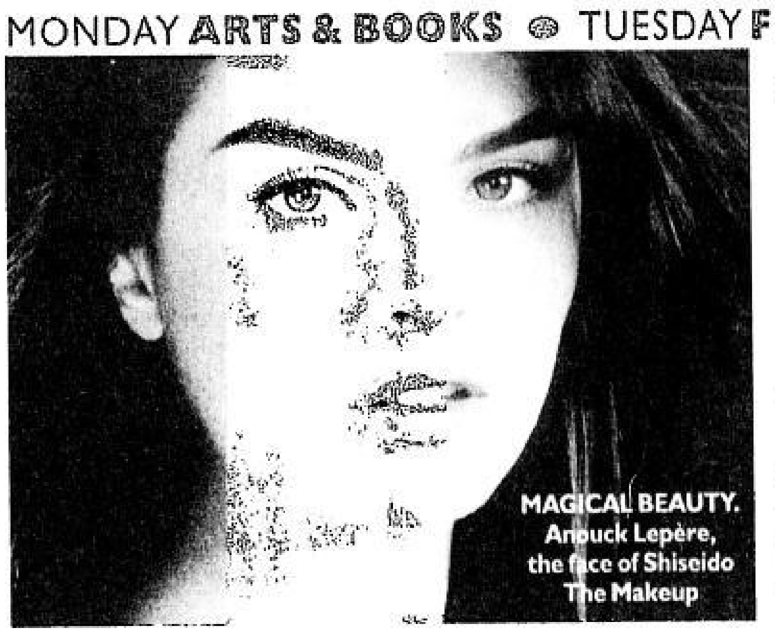
BEAUTY



**MAGICAL BEAUTY.** Anouck Lepère, the face of Shiseido The Makeup

# Time-honored beauty

One of the oldest and most revered cosmetics companies in the world, Shiseido puts a premium not just on the sheen but also the safety of its products

SHISEIDO
White Lucent

**THE IMPROVED** Shiseido White Lucent whitening range, which promises Asians fairer complexion without dark spots and freckles

By Cheche V. Moral

WHEN a beauty company approaches skincare and makeup like rocket science, its consumers can only feel confident they're paying for products that not only work but are also safe for their skin and the environment.

This is what one surmises after a tour of the Shiseido Research Center in Shin Yokohama, Japan. The sprawling research unit of the cosmetics firm last week played host to journalists from the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of enlightening consumers as to what goes on before each Shiseido product hits the makeup shelves in stores all over the world.

## East meets West

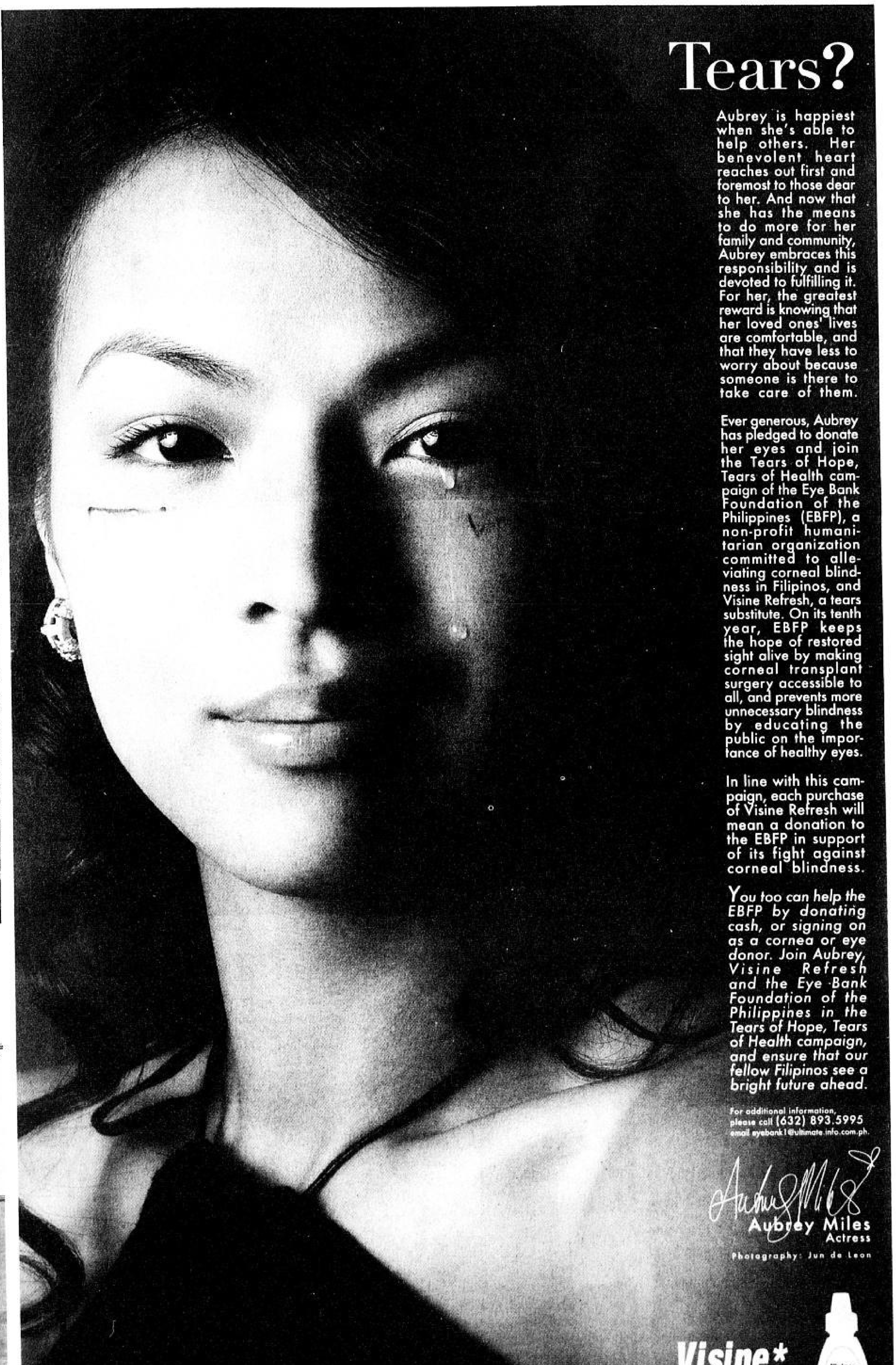
Established in 1872 in Tokyo, Shiseido is easily one of the oldest and most revered beauty companies in the world. Shiseido began as Japan's first Western-style pharmacy, meaning it combined Western science and traditional Eastern medicine techniques. It was founded in the Ginza district—now one of modern Tokyo's busiest high-end shopping areas—by the former head pharmacist of the Imperial Navy.

Shiseido the name comes from the Confucian expression that roughly means "praise the virtues of the earth which nurtures new life and brings forth significant values," a direct reflection of the company's philosophy of combining various disciplines, knowledge and technology to come up with what one Shiseido research executive refers to as "unexpected and remarkable products that are different from the conventional."

TIME-HONORED/ C4

**A SHISEIDO** scientist demos how the Bio-Performance Super Restoring Cream, an anti-wrinkle and firming product, works. It will be available here in August.

**THE TOKYO** Ginza Shiseido building, which houses Shiseido restaurants and an art gallery.



Tears?

Aubrey is happiest when she's able to help others. Her benevolent heart reaches out first and foremost to those dear to her. And now that she has the means to do more for her family and community, Aubrey embraces this responsibility and is devoted to fulfilling it. For her, the greatest reward is knowing that her loved ones' lives are comfortable, and that they have less to worry about because someone is there to take care of them.

Ever generous, Aubrey has pledged to donate her eyes and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

*You too can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Aubrey, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.*

For additional information, please call (632) 893.5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Aubrey Miles
Actress

Photography: Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

INQUIRER supports the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign.

# Makeup to make you happy

**Text and photos by Cheche Moral**

WHEN you cook, it means you love life… If you love life, you put on makeup."

This was Tom Pécheux, creative director of Shiseido, at the press launch last week of Shiseido's F/W 2005 makeup, at the Park Hyatt Tokyo in Japan.

"And I've never heard of a man who loved life who killed himself," he deadpanned. His audience cracked. "Doing makeup is like cooking. It's mixing ingredients; it's layering, like [you would a] cake. It's finding the right taste."

The culinary references could not be avoided. The makeup artist was a trained pastry chef in his native France before he switched to makeup in the early 1980s.

Pécheux, who joined Shiseido five years ago, described his creative process as "being surrounded with lots of makeup from different brands," with rolled sleeves he pounds stuff, mixing and experimenting. "A blush will always be a blush," he noted.

The best thing today, he said, is technology—Japanese technology, to be precise, expressing his amazement at an ingenious invention that automatically wraps umbrellas in plastic to keep them from dripping inside buildings (it rained all day in Tokyo prior to this interview).

Translated into makeup, he exalted what Shiseido is doing to improve makeup. The pearls used in new Shiseido makeup are reduced into nano particles that make them so much finer, he said. The lip glosses are not sticky. It must be remembered, he added, that it was Shiseido that formulated the first matte lipstick 17 years ago. This made him a Shiseido fan even before he joined the company.

The new Shiseido Lifting Foundation, available in September, is said to not only give a polished look but also firms the skin, gives elasticity and erases lines after regular use.

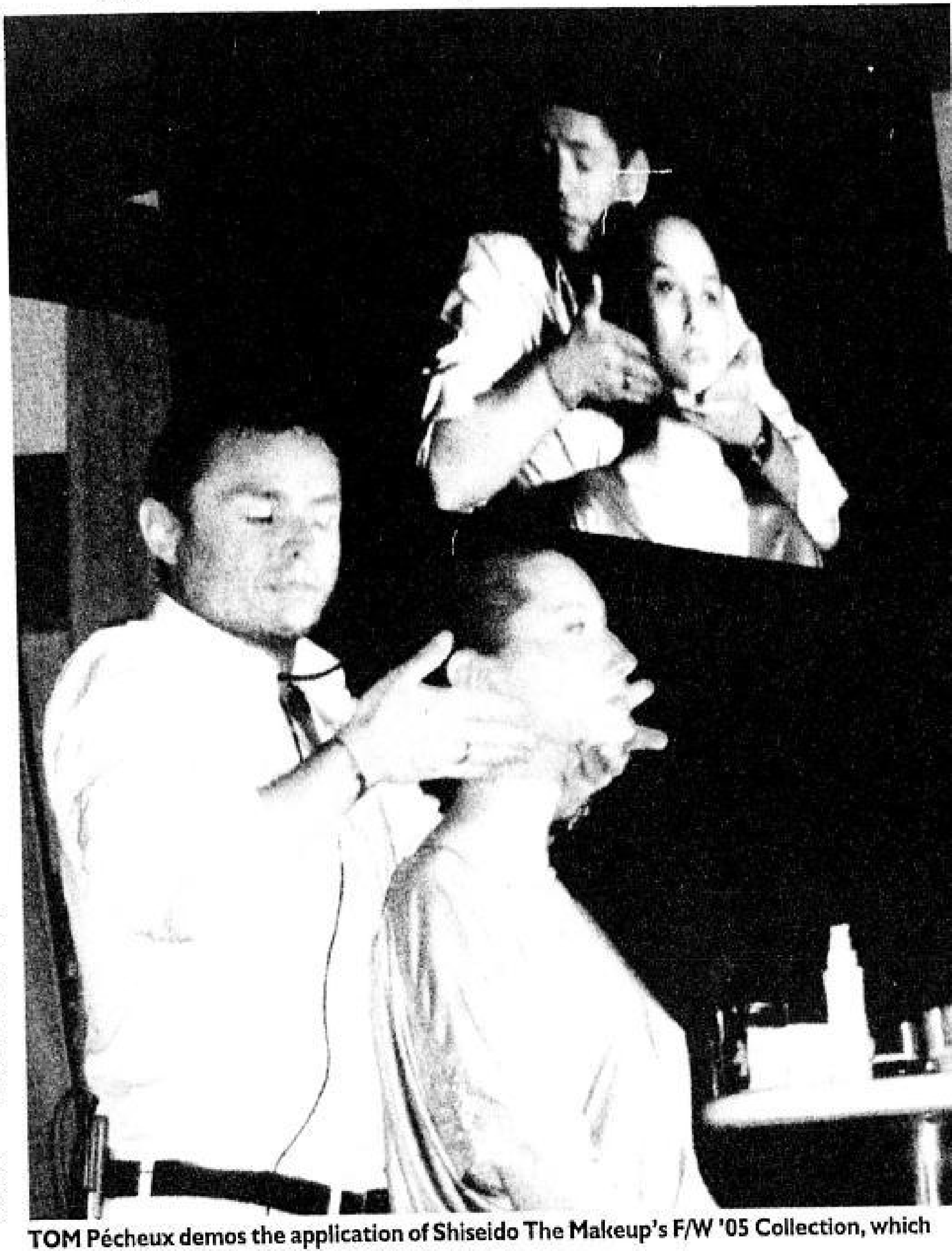
"You only need very little of this because it gives very good coverage," he advised.

Pécheux said he is extremely proud of co-developing Shiseido's hydro powder shadow and non-sticky lip gloss.

"I would love to be the first to create a spray-on blush!" he enthused.

In Anouck Lepère, his muse and the face of Shiseido The Makeup, Pécheux said he saw the right image for the brand. "She's so alive. She smiles with her eyes. She has an open mind; she's willing to try anything."

The biggest luxury in makeup today, according to him, is not the price tag, but to actually "use and enjoy it." Whether consumers want a whiter skin or a sun-baked tan, Pécheux said the bottom line is the consumer's happiness. "Do whatever makes you happy."

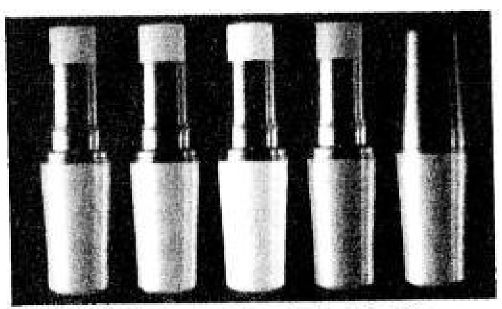


**TOM** Pécheux demos the application of Shiseido The Makeup's F/W '05 Collection, which commences with an energizing facial massage.

**LEPÈRE:** "Makeup person"

**PÉCHEUX.** The irreverent makeup whiz says his other interests are "sex and working hard, in that order."

> Putting on your face is a lot like cooking—you mix ingredients, you layer, you try to find the right taste



**SHISEIDO** Accentuating Color Stick in Bronze Flush (S1), Peach Flush (S2) Glistening Flush (S3) and Rouge Flush (S4)

# Perfecting foundation: Tom's tips

ALONG with its Fall/Winter 2005 Makeup, Shiseido will introduce in September the Shiseido Lifting Foundation, a two-in-one makeup and skincare product that promises a matte finish and, at the same time, moisturizes and decreases the appearance of fine lines—the only foundation that is touted to alter the effects of time.

According to Tom Pécheux, Shiseido's creative director, there is no exact foundation shade to match each individual's skin tone, as our skin changes color from day to day. He suggests blending two shades—one a half shade lighter, another a half shade darker than your skin tone. The darker shade will ensure that the outcome has no gray effect. He blends the foundation on the back of his hand, and applies it on the face with his fingers—the better to "decode" the face, he says.

Prior to applying foundation, Pécheux massages the face with a light moisturizer (Shiseido The Skincare Day Essential Moisturizer). Imperfections are hidden with the Corrector Pencil. He uses a concealer half a shade lighter than the foundation for under-eye dark circles and redness around the nose.

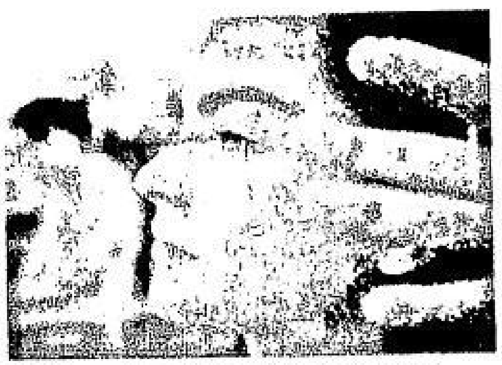
He dabs two dots of foundation on the forehead, two on the lower cheek, one on the chin, and another on the nose. He dabs it with his fingers for greater coverage, or blends it outward, beyond the shadow line of the jaw, for a more transparent look. If necessary, he advises applying foundation on the neck and decolleté as "it can only be beneficial."

Pécheux says, "Foundation is a magic product, but it has one flaw: It tends to remove definition." He rectifies this by using Luminizing Color Powder.

For a no-makeup look, he applies Accentuating Color Stick in Glistening Flush on the cheekbone, a lip gloss or Perfecting Lipstick applied with a fingertip, and a touch of brown mascara.

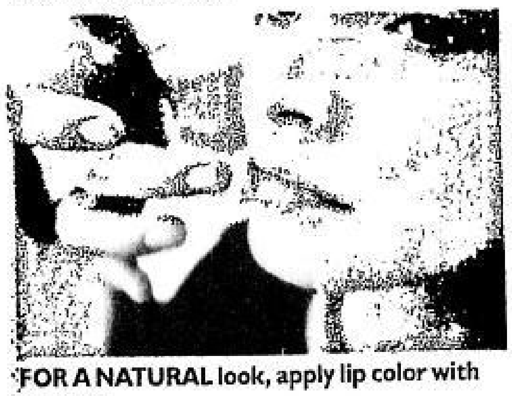
"Remember," he cautions, "using mascara without an eyelash curler is like having sex on your own."

*Cheche V. Moral*

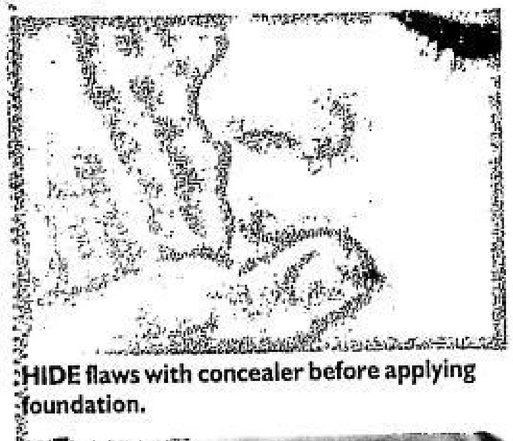


**SKIN** must be prepped with moisturizer.

**THE LIFTING** Foundation's creamy texture is ideal for blending.



**FOR A NATURAL** look, apply lip color with fingertip.

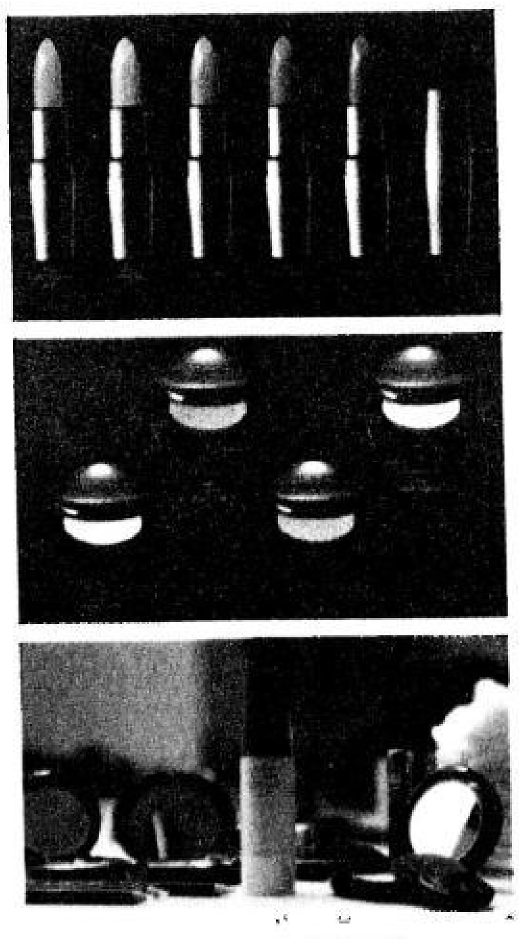


**HIDE** flaws with concealer before applying foundation.

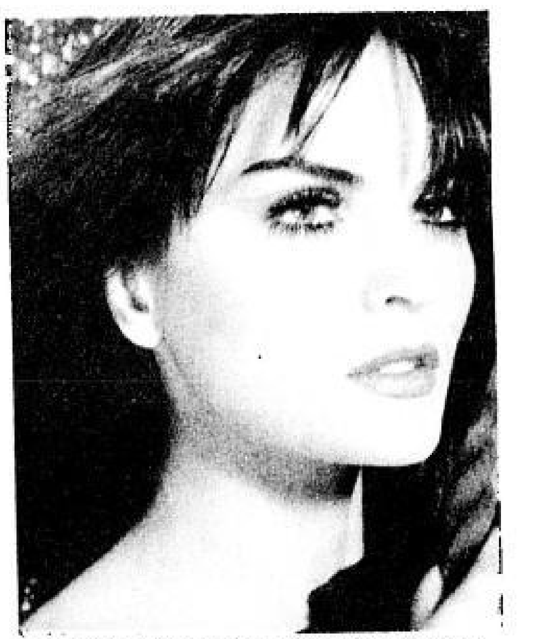
"**A HEALTHY** glow is more modern" than a porcelain finish.

"**GOLDEN** bases are more sensual."

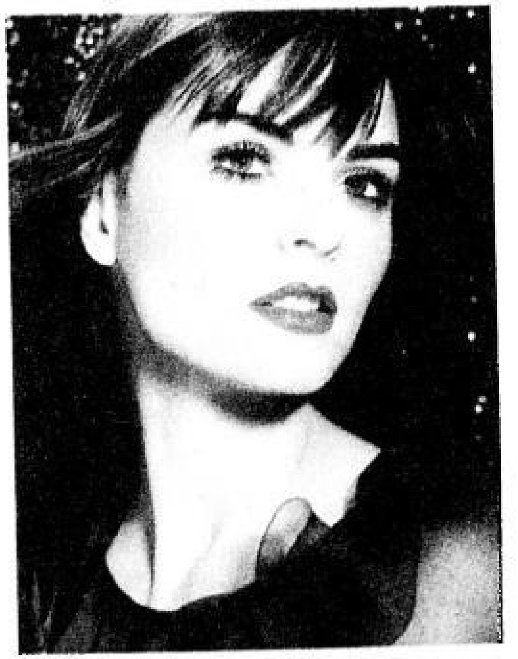
**PÉCHEUX'S** version of the no-makeup look on Belgian model Anouck Lepère.



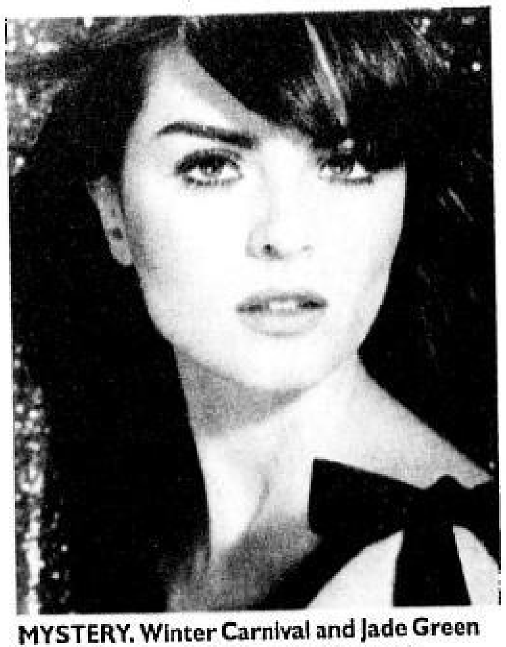
**SHISEIDO** The Makeup's F/W 2005 Collection (above) will be available in September, in Shiseido shops in Glorietta, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall, Gateway Mall, My Beauty Hub at 6750, and select department stores.



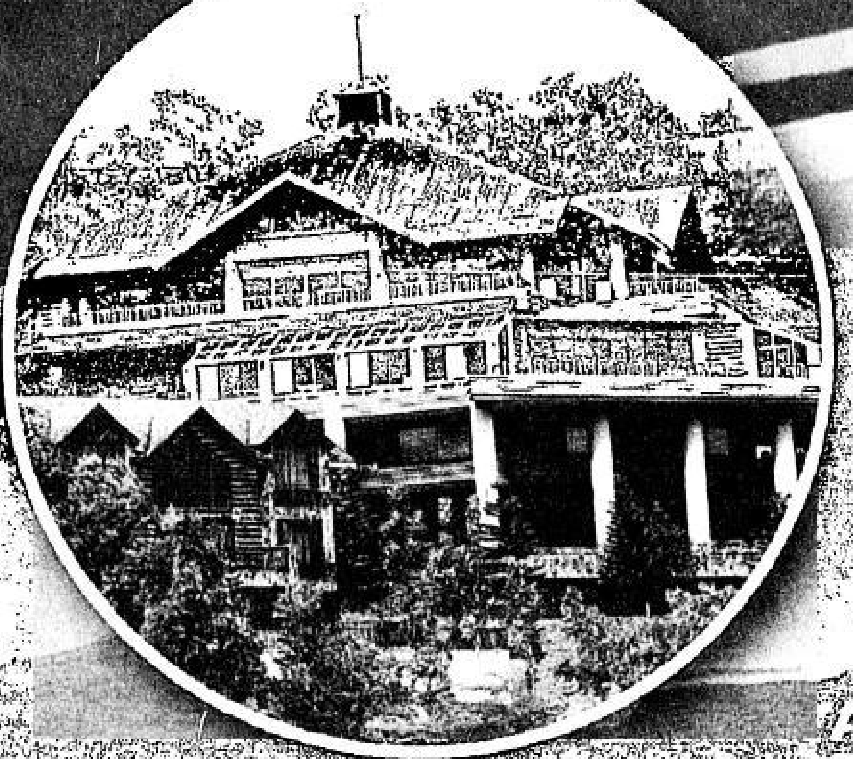
**PASSIONATE COLOR.** Violet Splendor for the eyes, Cantaloupe Kiss for the lips and Glistening Flush for the cheeks



**NATURAL.** Candy Pink (eyes), Real Red (lips) and Peach Flush (cheeks)



**MYSTERY.** Winter Carnival and Jade Green (eyes), Praline (lips) and Bronze Flush (cheeks). The base for all the looks is the Lifting Foundation.



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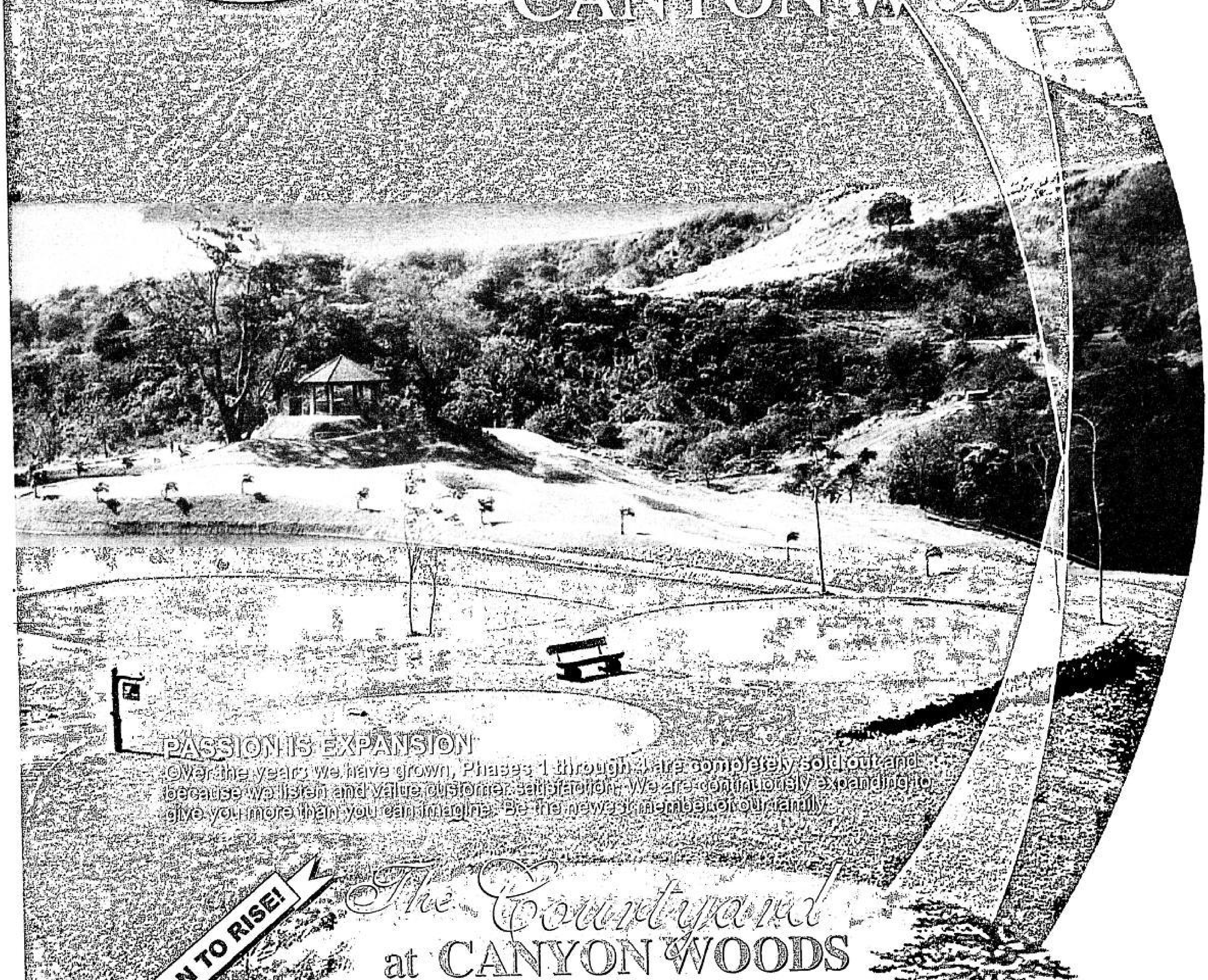

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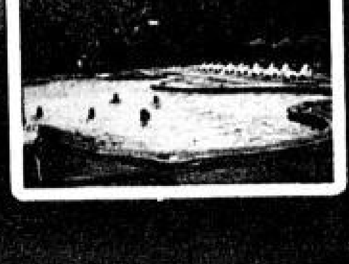

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**A SCIENTIST** at work in the Shiseido Research Center in Shin Yokohama (above left); an Australian journalist tests a new anti-wrinkle product in Tokyo

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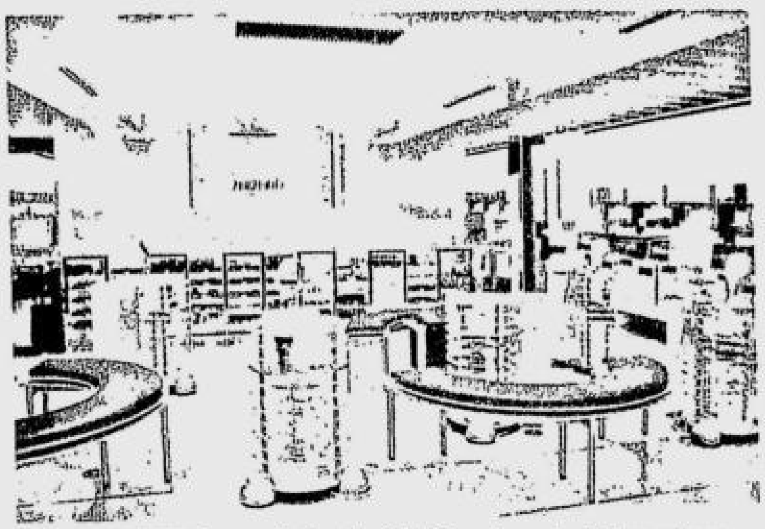


**THE SHISEIDO** Cosmetic Garden C in Omotesando, Tokyo, where one can try and test all products, consult with beauty experts or attend makeup classes.

# Time-honored beauty

From page C1

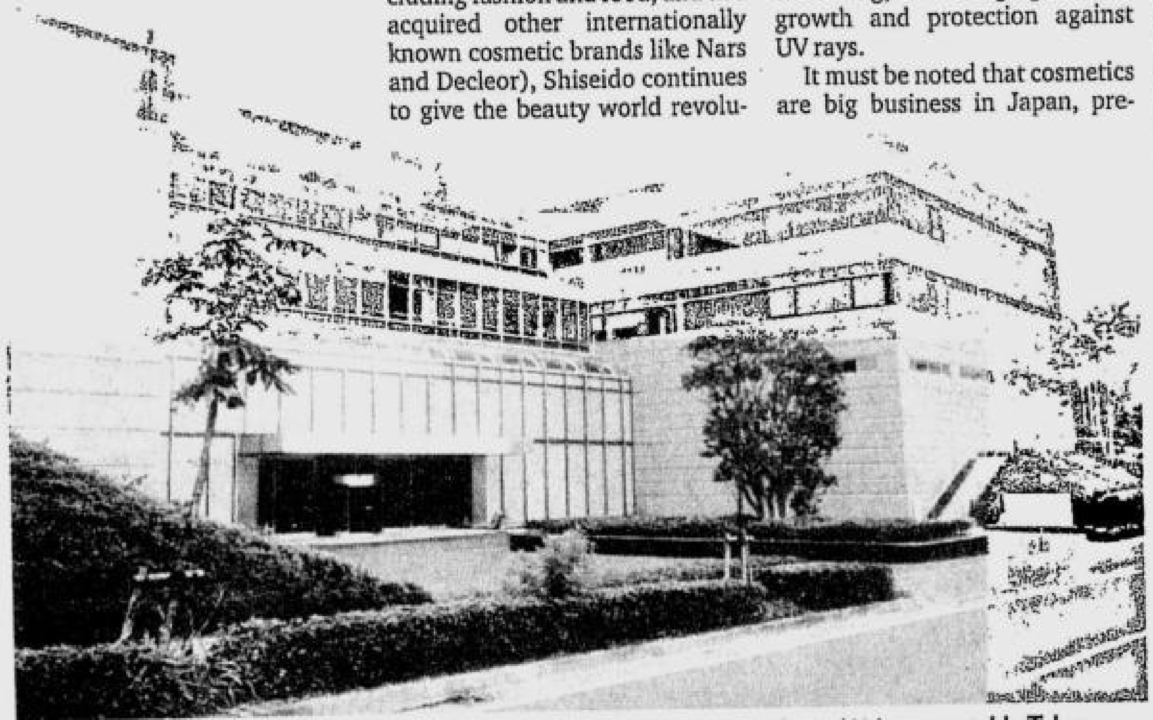
Shiseido created Japan's first toothpaste and, in 1917, it launched the country's first face powder in different shades. (At the time, Japanese face powders only came in white.) The firm's first cosmetic product, and the precursor of its cosmetics business, was a skin lotion, Eudermine, which it launched in 1897.

## Breakthroughs

Some 130 years and hundreds of products later (Shiseido has diversified into other businesses including fashion and food, and has acquired other internationally known cosmetic brands like Nars and Decleor), Shiseido continues to give the beauty world revolutionary breakthroughs through its research and development center.

At the Shin Yokohama center, which is about half the size of a football field, 500 scientists work year-round to formulate new, or improve existing, products. The firm's main research focus is skin whitening, anti-aging, hair growth and protection against UV rays.

It must be noted that cosmetics are big business in Japan, presumably the biggest market worldwide for skin whitening. Competition among domestic brands alone is cutthroat. Japanese whitening brands are highly valued globally.



**WHERE** it all begins: the Shiseido Research Center in Shin Yokohama, about 1 ½ hours outside Tokyo

## Whitening line

Anessa, a Shiseido whitening line (not available in the Philippines), has striking billboards all over Tokyo displaying a bikini-clad, very fair Asian woman with a row of ultra-tan Western women as her backdrop. In the Philippines, Shiseido's Global Whitening Care line (Anessa's local equivalent) is a top seller, according to Donna Faylona, Luxasia's product manager for cosmetics. Luxasia Inc. is the local Shiseido franchise owner.

Though a huge chunk of the beauty company's resources goes into research and product development, a Shiseido exec liked to stress that they give equal attention to the packaging. Shiseido is a prestigious brand patronized worldwide. The domestic market, however, still accounts for over two-thirds of its sales, which may say a lot about the Japanese regard for this homegrown brand.

**THE TOKYO** Ginza Shiseido Building was built on the same location where Shiseido was founded.

During the tour of the Shiseido research facility, Dr. Kenji Kitamura presented an independent academic study for patch-test dermatitis among 681 subjects using a variety of prestigious Asian, American and European cosmetic brands. The paper showed Shiseido tested lowest in adverse reaction, at 1.2 percent. He said, however, that it is their research's aim to make this figure even lower.

## Simple policy

Shiseido's policy, Kitamura said, is actually very simple: that is to bring beauty and happiness to its customers. The company's perspective is to meld function and satisfaction, to create products that delight consumers. Each product adheres to strict safety standards, or earth- and body-friendly. Shiseido has research partnerships with the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Kitamura added it's not enough that skincare and cosmetics brands claim they use only "100-percent natural" ingredients. Natural ingredients must be used in their purified state, he stressed as he showed samples of unpurified and purified specimens.

The emphasis on safety and Shiseido's century-old experience in skincare have also become the selling point of the company's makeup line. Shiseido's foundations are also bestsellers locally, according to Faylona, probably because "they're not just makeup, they're also [part] skincare." *(See related story on Shiseido's fall makeup in this section.)*

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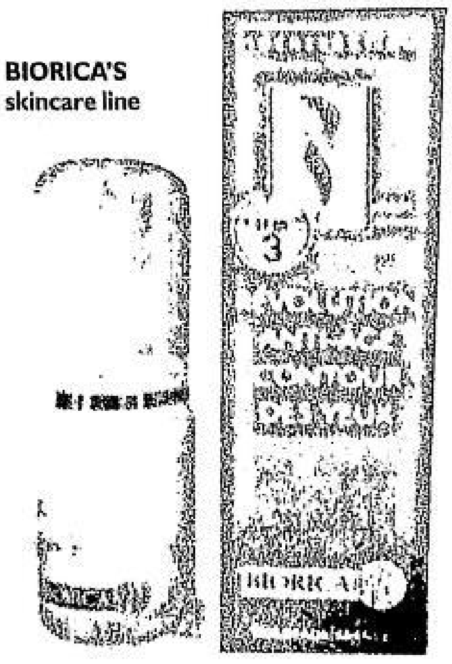

**BIORICA'S** skincare line

# New creams to brighten your aura

**MAKEOVER 911**

*Kinny Salas*

THE UNCONTESTED star of my column this week is Biorica's line of skincare products. Its main component is leach saliva, which has been used for centuries for its medicinal properties. This is no ordinary leach; it only feeds twice a year and survives only in mineral water. Our local brands of mineral water will not do, in fact, as the leaches are compatible only with Vittel.

This special leach is called Hirudo Medicinalis, and what its saliva does is to improve microcirculation which is impaired by factors such as age and

NEW/D3

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Meet the Fab Two from the hit show, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. Grooming Guru Kyan Douglas and Design Doctor Thom Filicia will be at Greenbelt and Alabang Town Center on June [illegible]

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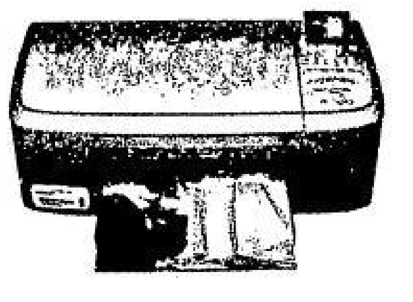

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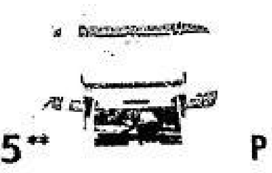

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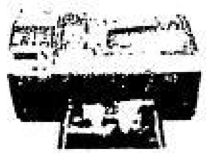

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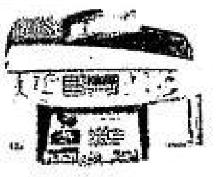

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THE GRADUATES of Salon Management Program

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FOR THE first time in Philippine hairdressing history, salon owners were given the chance recently to avail themselves of an official diploma from the University of the Philippines for a customized Salon Management Program, created in cooperation with L'Oreal Professionnel.

The course included modules on Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Management; Understanding of Basic Financial Statements, Financial Statement Analysis, Basic Management for Accounting and Control, Capital Budgeting; Total Quality Management; The 5S Programme (organization within the salon environment); and Marketing for Salon Owners and Managers.

The graduates were mostly salon owners who have been in the industry for several years, including Cherry Reyes and Ali Tiongson of Essensuals by Toni and Guy, Gina Mendez from the Jesi Mendez salon chain and Angelo Falconi of the Angelo Falconi salon in Las Piñas.

Also present at the ceremony to award the graduates were L'Oreal managing director David Ennes; general manager of L'Oreal's Professionel products division Samantha Vong; L'Oreal Professionnel business unit manager Tricia Duavit; L'Oreal Technico commercial manager Anna Andres and L'Oreal Education manager Cristy Billones.

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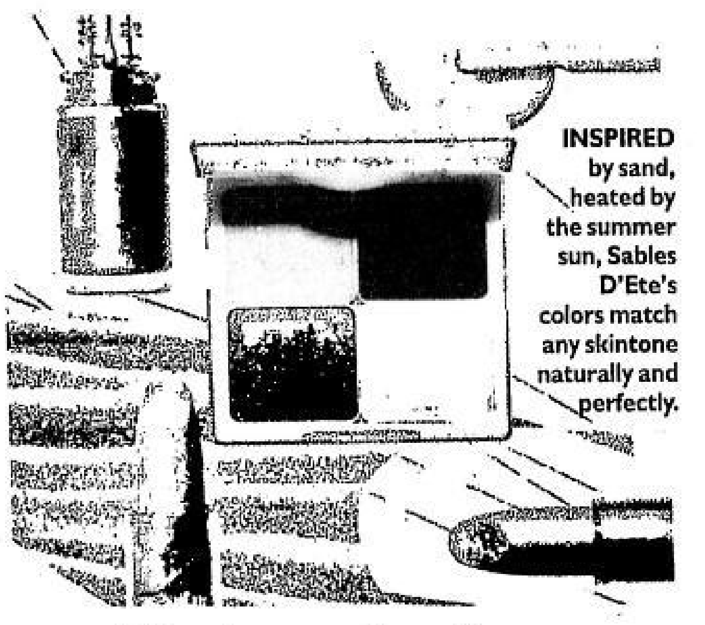
ANNA Andres, L'Oreal Professionnel-Techinico commercial manager; Samantha Vong, L'Oreal Professionel products division general manager; David Ennes, L'Oreal Phils managing director; Hairworks Salon owner Chrissy; UP Diliman College of Business dean Erlinda Echanis

CHANCELLOR Sergio Cao of College of Business, UP Diliman gives the welcome remarks.



INSPIRED by sand, heated by the summer sun, Sables D'Ete's colors match any skintone naturally and perfectly.

# *Natural glam*

SHU UEMURA departs from its usual twice-a-year collections to produce a line dedicated to all jet-setters: the Sables D'Ete (sands of summer) Collection.

Inspired by sand and sun, the hues of calm beige, pink and brown match the skin tone naturally, providing a shimmering glow and natural dimension, creating a look of relaxed sensuality.

The 2005 summer line is full of neutral tones in soft and sheer textures, which perfectly match variations of beige to brownish colors in Sables D'Ete.

The limited-edition collection comprises items that can stand alone and can be used throughout the entire year. When combined together, they create a high-impact natural and flattering look.

## Pressed Eyeshadow Palette

The collection's Star Product: the Pressed Eyeshadow Palette (P3,995) is composed of four delicate hues put into one palette for easy and convenient use. The combination of three different textures (metallic, iridescent and pearl) enables one to express subtle nuances, thereby creating your own look as you wish. Each shade is named after souvenirs on the beach (Pearl Pebbles, Metallic Teak, Pearl Sand and Iridescent Shell) and the package design signifies the sand blown by a sea breeze.

This palette, thanks to its soft and subtle textures, can be used in the following ways as well:

Pearl Pebbles (cool pink with pearls) can double as a blush aside from just as an eye shadow.

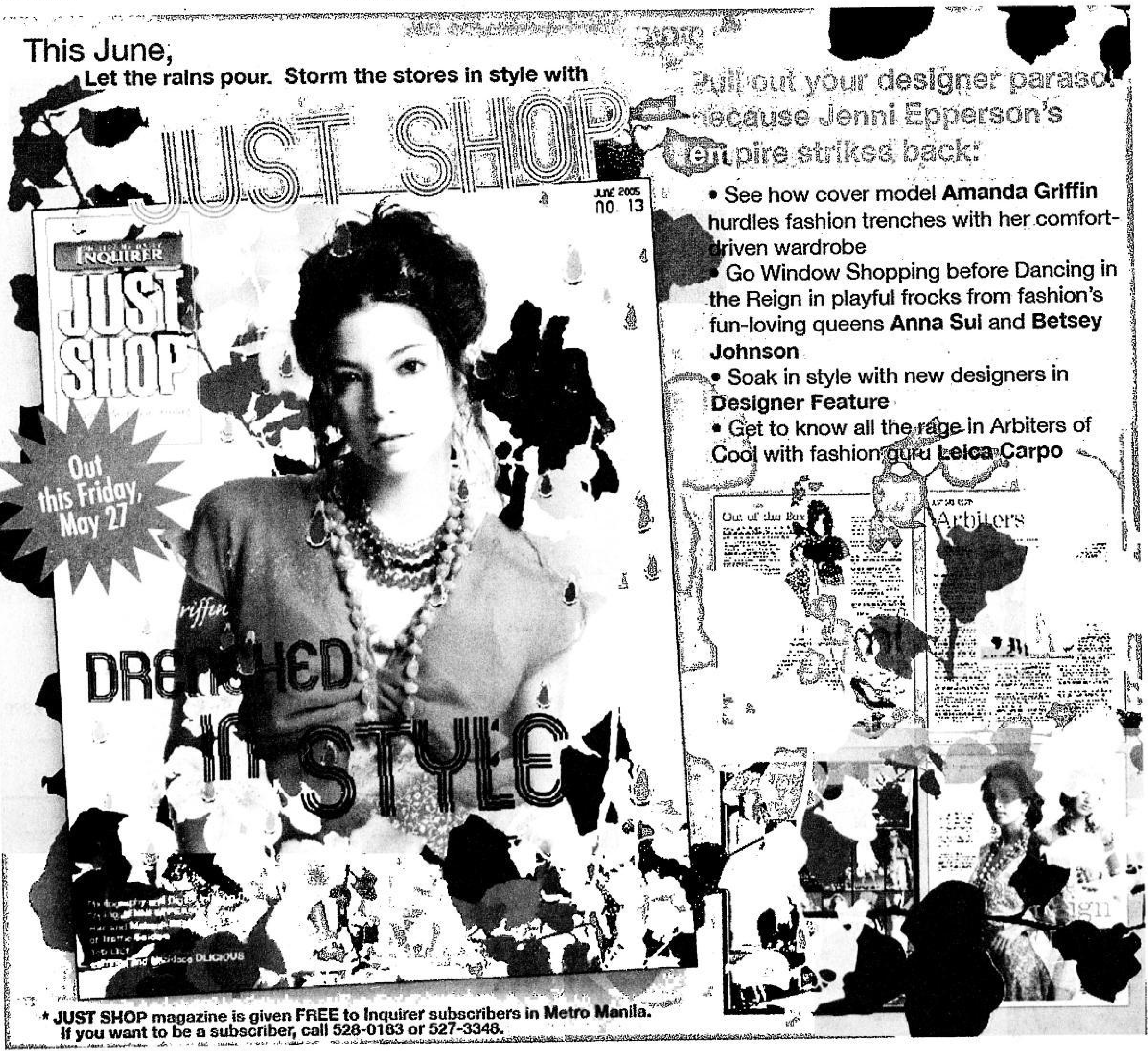
Iridescent Shell (yellowish beige with iridescent glow) can be used as an all-over highlighter for the bone, cheekbones and eyes. This can also be used as a pale shimmer and highlighter for pale skin.

Metallic Teak (cool metallic brown) can be used as a bronzer.

## Nail enamel supplement mineral (P900)

A set of four natural yet edgy colors to emphasize one's femininity, the Sables D'Ete nail enamels (P927, P929, P427, P329) are perfect nudes for any occasion. These fail-safe shades look elegant on paler skin tones and sexy on sun-tanned skin tones. They are perfectly suitable for both manicure and pedicure.

The Sables D'Ete Collection is now available at Shu Uemura Counters in Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



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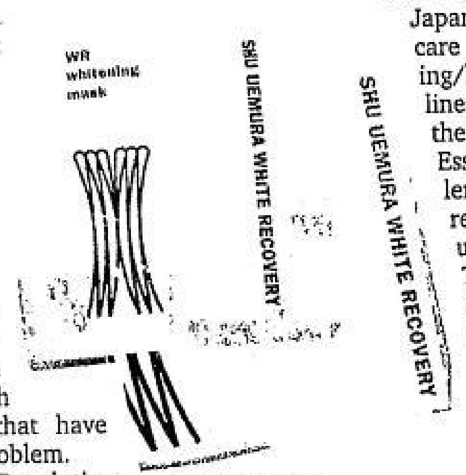
# New creams to brighten your aura

From page D1

sickness and causes us to age in appearance. That process is reflected on our skin in many forms, such as dark circles, sallow coloring and lack of firmness.

The Biorica code comes in HM 1, 2 and 3. Three has the highest concentration of the saliva enzymes, and I am very much impressed by the results of the eye cream.

Dark under-eye circles have been an age-old problem. Until very recently, the only solution was to hide them underneath the perfect concealer. These days there have been a slew of eye creams with Vitamin K that have solved the problem.



**SHU Uemura Whitening Mask**

Biorica's Revolution Anti-Age Eye Contour (P3,500 for a 15-ml HM 3 pump bottle ) not only significantly decreases dark circles, it also firms up eye bags and minimizes fine lines and wrinkles. This watery, milky fluid is very concentrated but is not greasy, so one needs very little application.

I saw results after 10 days. Previous to this, my eye-bags were always very noticeable, with dark circles though no fine lines. Ten days straight of using the Biorica serum, twice a day, and my eye-bags have improved, the dark circles have disappeared, and puffiness is no longer a problem. I look well rested every morning.

I am looking forward to trying the rest of the Biorica products. Will tell you how it goes!

## Bruise control

Spider veins and bruises mar an otherwise perfect complexion, which is why I hate PMS week where I bruise at the drop of a hat.

Auriderm XO is a third-generation Vitamin K cream which by far offers the fastest way to deal with bruising on the face and body brought about by bumping into things, cosmetic surgery procedures such as Aptos, nose jobs and blepharoplasty (eye-bags and lids surgery).

I applied this on the first signs of spider veins on my legs and the results were very impressive.

Now, on to intensified whitening. I am trying to get my face back to its original color safely as my tan has faded into a sickly shade that is far from golden. The most potent of any beauty line is always the essence (also called emulsion, spot corrector or serum). It is what makes your skin brighter and is the most important of the bunch, which are applied this way: cleanser, toner (aka lotion), essence, whitening moisturizer.

Sekki Sei, one of Japan's top skin-care whitening/brightening lines, has added the Sekki Sei Essence Excellent to its already reputable line. The steps are a bit unusual: cleanser, essence excellent, lotion (toner), emulsion (former essence), brightening cream.

Essence Excellent is easily absorbed when patted into skin and does not feel greasy or sticky. Other brands have added whitening masks to be used weekly as an intensified treatment. I have found that the following really do make a difference: Shu Uemura, Awake Double Act, Clarins Active white, Lancome, Neutrogena Fine Fairness and L'Oreal.

## Whitening

For whitening foundations, try Clarins and Clinique, which come in mousse form and give SPF 20 protection without caking on normal to dry skin. Shiseido, Awake Exblight and Shu Uemura are perfect for oil-control freaks as they blot up grease, offer sun protection, and stay matte all day while looking sheer.

Clinique has made an entire whitening range which includes whitening powder, eye cream and a light-textured whitening cream that does not make me break out, so it's safe to say it is kind to oily skin.

For Auriderm XO inquiries, call 6888062. Clarins, Awake, Clinique, and Shu Uemura are exclusively available at Rustan's. Biorica and Sekki Sei are available at Essenses, Rustans.

*E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com*

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**Heart Evangelista, VJ/actress**

**What's the first thing you would make over in an individual?**

If I were given magic powers to make over someone, I would start working inside. Teenagers today think being sexy is all about baring skin. One of my goals is to change that concept completely. Sexy is all about having a shining personality, confidence in one's self and the right attitude.

**Shaina Magdayao, actress**

**What's your advice to people who want instant makeovers?**

You have to do something regularly to get good results. For example, you should condition every day and have salon treatments every now and then. A long-term makeover and maintaining a regular routine is more advantageous.

**Bea Alonzo, actress**

**What three beauty essentials would you recommend for a simple, at-home makeover?**

First, Cream Silk for everyday use because shampoo's not enough. Moisturizer for the hair is important, so make it a routine. Second, body lotion for smooth skin. Third, exercise. It can be anything like walking or jogging on a daily basis.

# Mission: Makeovers!

## APPLES' PICKINGS

*Apples Aberin-Sadhwani*

WHEN you feel good, you look good. So it follows that when you look good, you feel good as well. That's why makeovers are always exciting and well worth the time, effort and the expense. It's gratifying to see a self-doubting diamond in the rough turn into a sparkling gem of a woman after a much needed makeover session.

Shows like "Ambush Makeover" or "Fashion Emergency" are a testament to this fact. And I've personally seen many a transformation during my image enhancement workshops. The changes are oftentimes quite drastic, simply because together with a new hairdo or wardrobe, the individual's attitude reflects a certain poise, confidence or *je ne sais quois* that was previously undetected.

Makeovers need not be encompassing and expensive. It doesn't always have to be a complete overhaul that requires a change of hairstyle, makeup palette, wardrobe or lifestyle. Sometimes, all you need is a bit of a tweak to lift your spirits and put a little bounce in your step.

Cream Silk understands this, and that's precisely why it is relaunching "Makeover Missions," a nationwide campaign to promote the regular use of conditioners to achieve soft, smooth and manageable hair.

During the mission, chosen participants undergo a personalized hair consultation with an Elida expert to identify hair problems and hair goals. Based on these, hair experts recommend ideal hair care regimens and the Cream Silk variant best suited for one's hair needs.

The best part about this is that it is a nationwide campaign that will kick off in Glorietta, Makati on July 2; in Ayala Center, Cebu City and in Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro on June 25. These will then be followed by travel caravans in 10 key provinces. So, Filipinas all over the archipelago will have a chance to avail themselves of a mini, perhaps much-welcome, makeover.

But don't let it stop there. Makeovers are not just about what the eye can see, although physical transformation can help one feel better and gain a healthier self-esteem. Start from within and realize that we all have the potential to be better—if not the best we can be—in every aspect of our life.

Need a bit more inspiration to make some changes in your life, or at the very least your hair? Here are some of Manila's beautiful people with advice on magical makeovers.

*A reader has pointed out via e-mail that Orange County, which was the subject of this column last week, is not a part of Los Angeles. My thanks for setting the facts straight.*

*E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com*

**Amanda Griffin, model/VJ**

**How do you know when you need a makeover?**

You'll know you need one if your friends start dropping hints or want to take you to the mall to do some shopping. Or if you still have stuff in your closet from 10 years ago. If you're not into fashion and trends, you might need a little guidance.

You'll also know you need a makeover when you've had the same look for a long time and just want a change.

**Rissa Samson, model**

**Name a fashionable item that can make over a basic, boring wardrobe.**

I can never resist a beautifully bold necklace. For me, it should be the star of a relatively simple outfit, with other pieces playing a supporting role.

**Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, model/jewelry designer**

**If you're on a budget, what's the most cost-effective way to embark on a makeover?**

One thing you can do is to research on products that are multi-functional, such as items that can be used as lip, cheek and eye color. Another way is to try home solutions for beauty problems. You can use an oatmeal scrub instead of a store-bought exfoliant, olive oil as treatment for damaged hair or expired moisturizer for dry cuticles.

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

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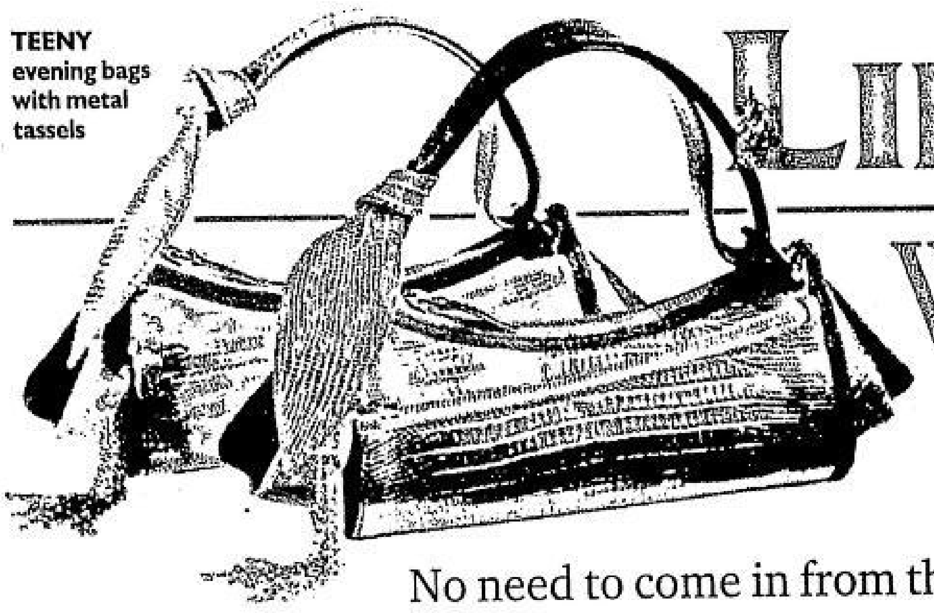
# LIFESTYLE

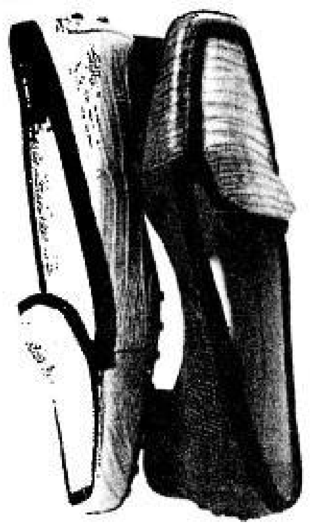


**TEENY** evening bags with metal tassels

# Warming up winter

No need to come in from the cold with the new collection that J. P. Tod's has previewed for the chilly months ahead

**ZEBRA** print astrakhan-pony for the new D Bag with python lining and handles; comes with hat and bangle to match.



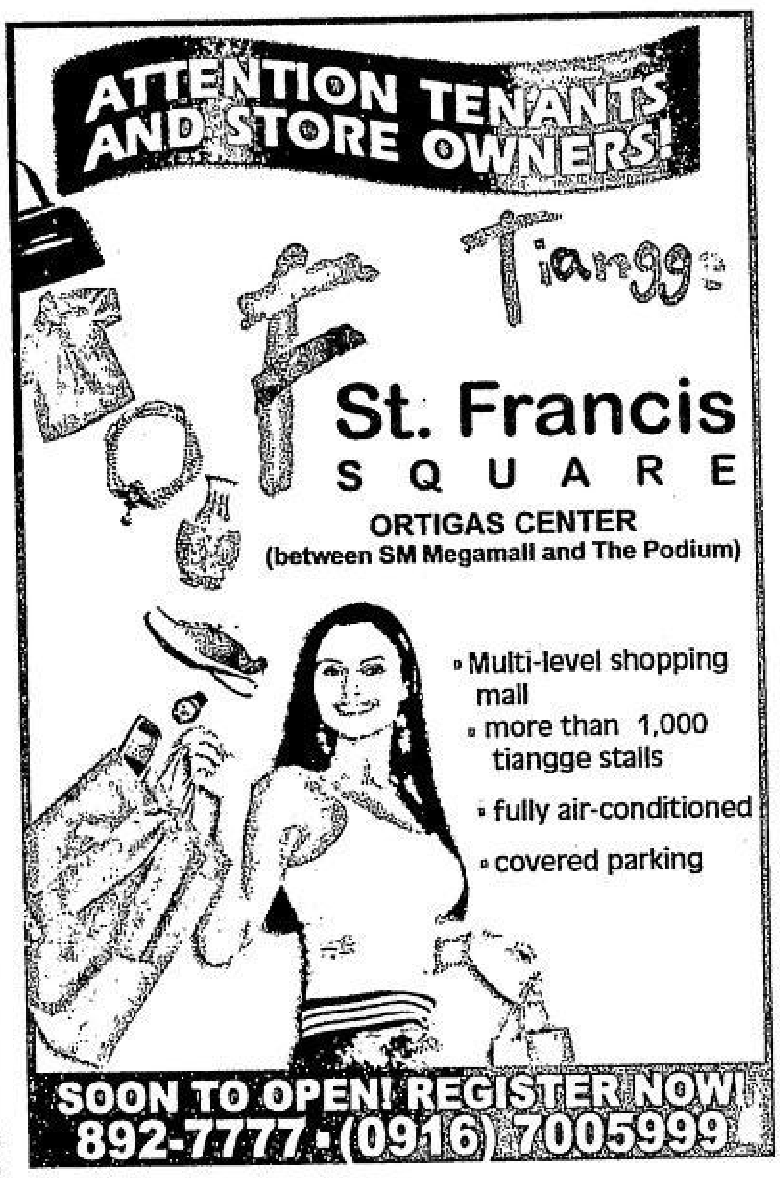
**LOAFERS** with piping detail for her

**By Beia Formoso**
*Contributor*

THE COMING winter season will be anything but dull and drab, thanks to J. P. Tod's.

The luxury leather goods brand, introduced its autumn/winter 2005 collection recently in Hong Kong, just in time for the rainy season that is not only drenching the Crown Colony but, as Maurice Arcache would say, Cosmo Manille as well.

WARMING/ E2



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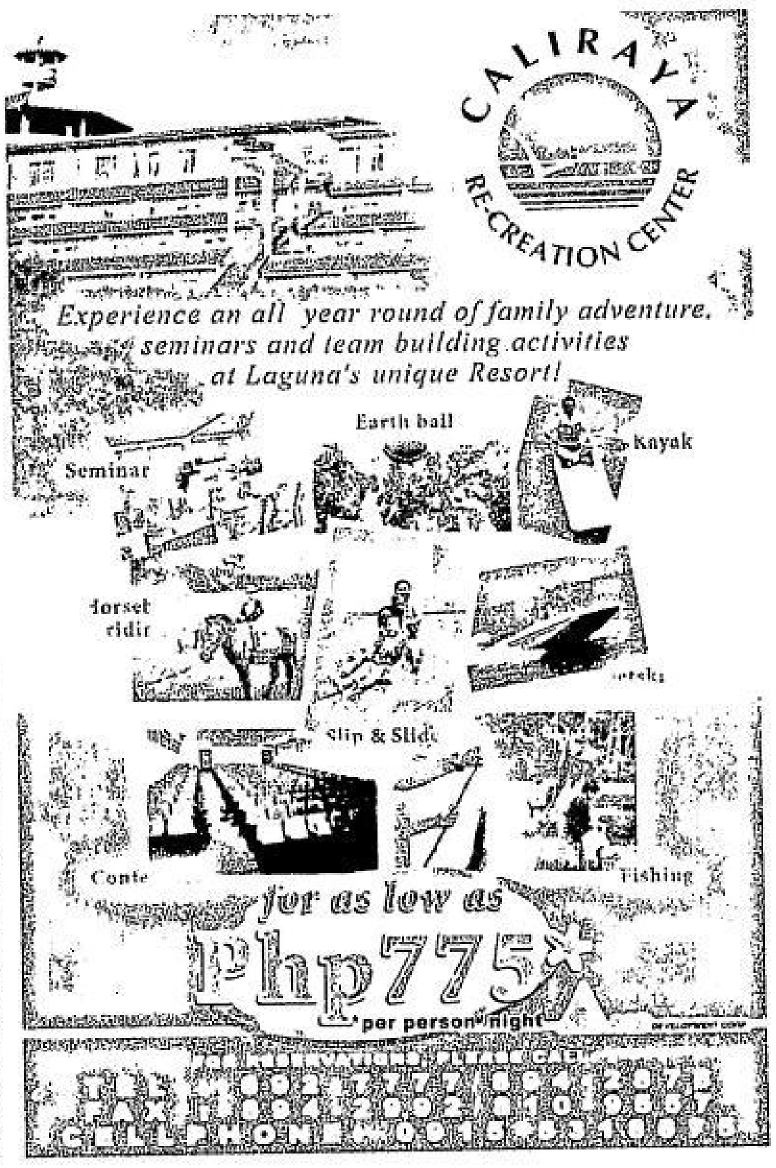

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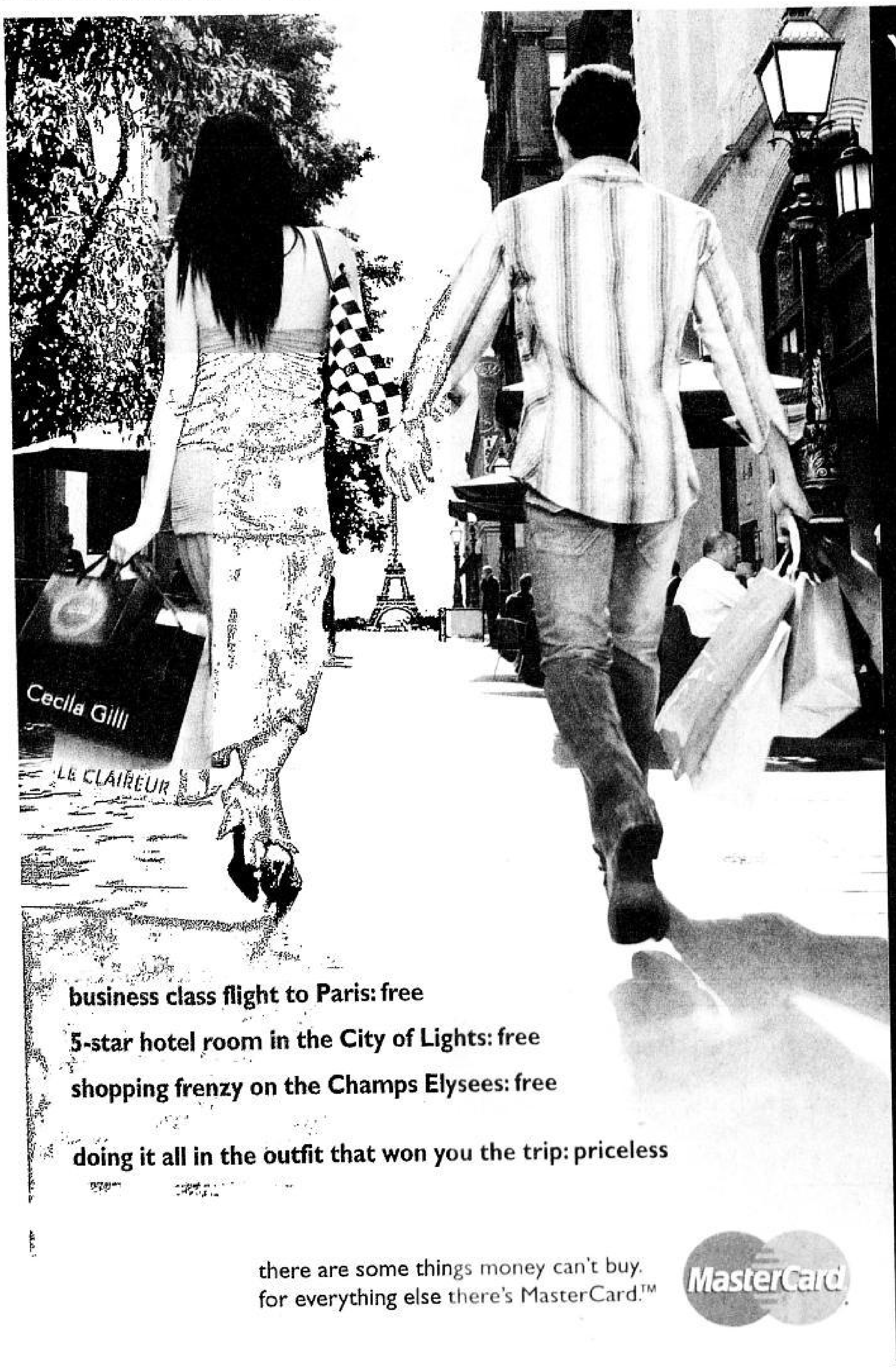

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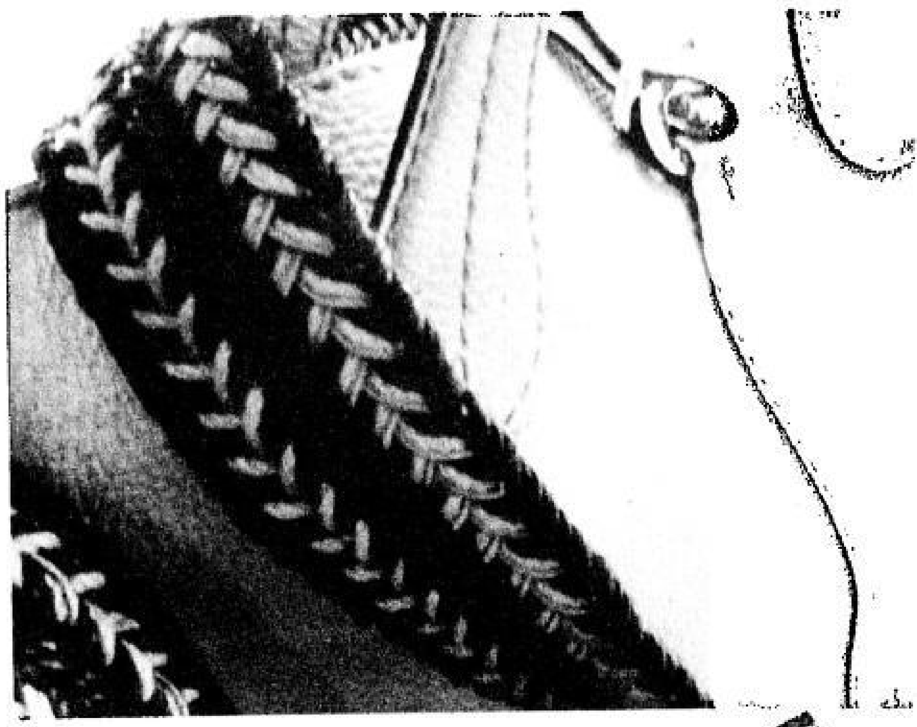
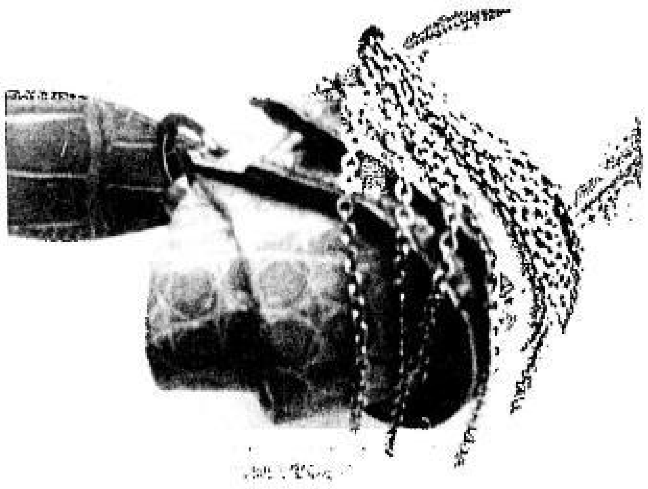
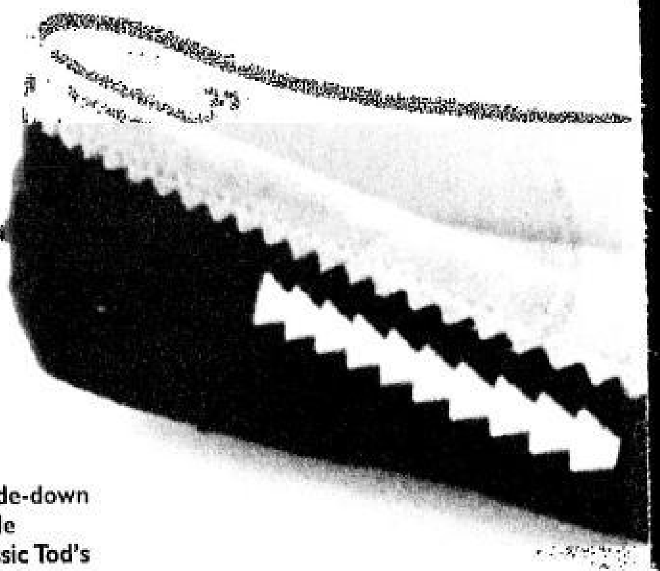


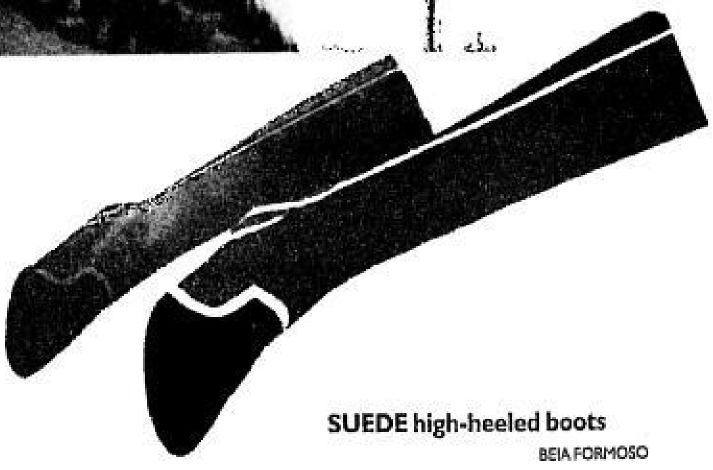




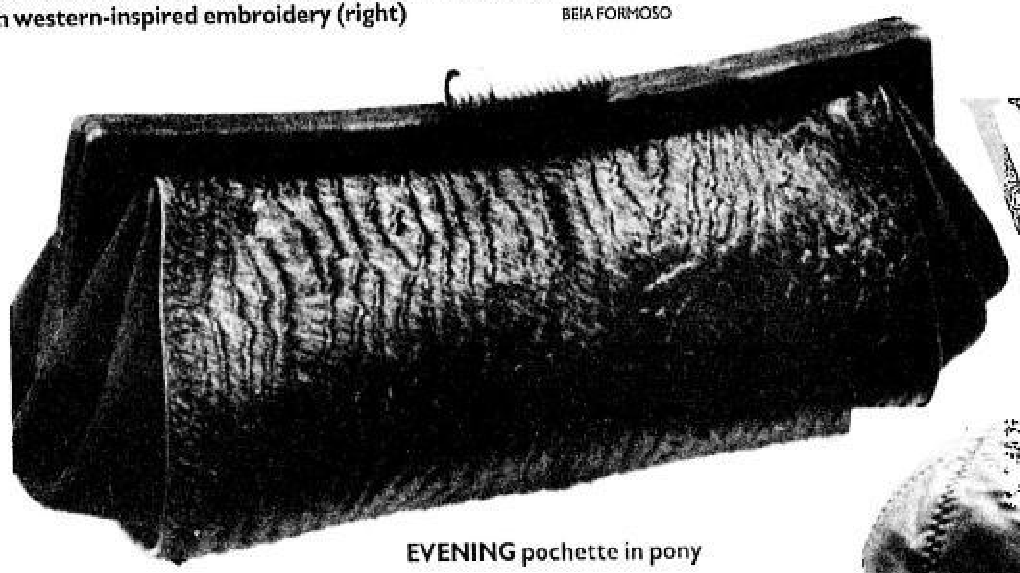
**IT'S IN THE DETAILS:** Handwoven leather long strap and upside-down buckle on the Hampton Bag (left); folding detail on the crocodile evening pochette with metal tassels (above); a twist on the classic Tod's loafer with western-inspired embroidery (right) BEIA FORMOSO

# Wa

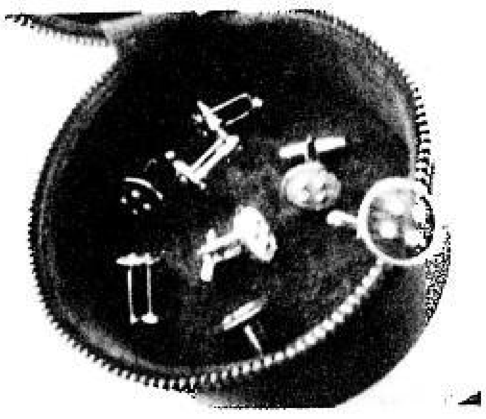
**NOTEBOOK** encased in leather comes with a Tod's pencil
BEIA FORMOSO



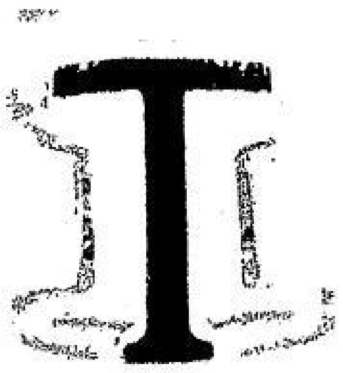
**SUEDE** high-heeled boots
BEIA FORMOSO



**EVENING** pochette in pony

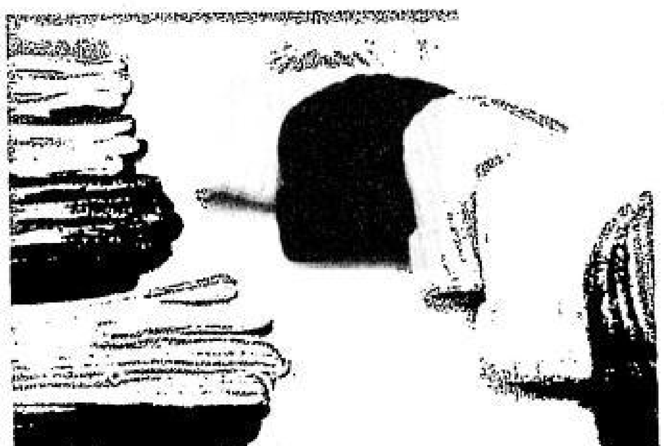


**SEASON OF FIRSTS:** (clock from top) Leather baseball Backpack in soft leather; Li skin cufflinks in red, black, brown and white BEIA FC



**TOD'S T-cuff** BEIA FORMOSO

**PERFECT** shopping companion: Hampton Bag with handwoven strap



**CASHMERE** ski caps and gloves are thick, warm and come in the juiciest colors. BEIA FORMOSO

**COMPUTER** bag for the ultimate in luxury
BEIA FORMOSO

# Celebrities' choice

Hollywood stars are being spotted carrying their Tod's bag of choice. And why not? Tod's accessories are exquisite enough to raise anybody's style quotient, and classy enough to leave all the shining to the stars wearing them.

**KATIE** Holmes, last seen in "First Daughter" and soon to hit the big screen in "Batman Begins," has the gold version of Tod's mini D-bag, which is crafted from luxurious python skin.

**RICHARD** Gere and wife Carey Lowell showed up at a recent Metropolitan Art Museum event wearing Tod's: Tod's men's leather shoes and Tod's cufflinks for him and Tod's Scala pochette and strappy Roger Vivier Jazzy sandals for her.

**MOLLY** Sims, the
the movies includ
believes white is ri
jeans and sneakers
SS2005 New D-ba

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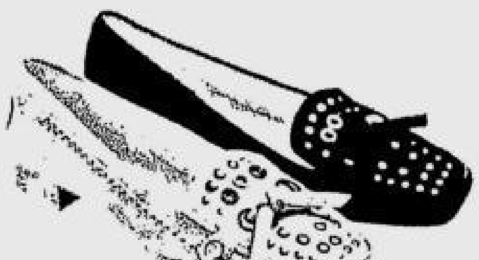
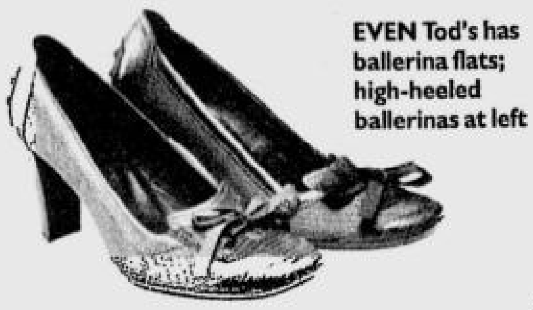


**WOMEN's** suede loafers with metal rivets



**EVEN** Tod's has ballerina flats; high-heeled ballerinas at left

**MEN'S** leather sneakers

# ming up winter

From page E1

Well, with the new goodies Tod's has in store for its loyal followers, the rain surely won't be able to dampen their spirit!

The world of Tod's is growing season after season with the introduction of new shoes, bags and accessories. Cue, Tod's first ever backpack, is perfect for those going back to school, whether young or not-so-young. Next up are the hiking boots for men aptly called Igloo (imagine hiking in Tod's shoes!) and sneakers in the Ferrari line for both men and women (imagine running in Tod's shoes!). Accessories abound in the form of lizard skin cufflinks and leather baseball caps for men.

Interesting how the older Tod's gets, the younger and "hipper" its designs become. Striking color combinations, contrasting materials and eye-catching twists make for modern takes on classic pieces such as metal rivets on everything from boots, loafers and bags to gloves, western-inspired embroidery, colored piping and stitching. And the most intriguing of all: intricate folding on tiny crocodile bags—no mean feat.

## Buzz-worthy

The folded evening pochettes, which also come in clutch form, are creating quite a stir, especially since Jennifer Lopez wore one to the L.A. premiere of her latest movie "Monster-in-Law."

Also buzz-worthy is the Kate Bag, which comes in a variety of sizes (from a valise to a petite evening version), different material such as pony, crocodile or lizard and different finishes of leather. It is so popular that last spring's version has sold-out in Hong Kong and the winter ones are already wait-listed.

The coveted D Bag, too, gets a makeover this season, internally as well as externally. Dubbed the "New D Bag," its lining consists of either python or shearling whilst the outside can range from suede with metal details to crocodile, to zebra-printed ashtrakhan-pony, which comes with a matching hat and bangle.

The Hampton Bag is a shopper's ultimate companion with handles positioned in such a way that the bag rests snuggly on your arm and follows your direction, instead of hitting your hips as you walk. It comes with a handwoven long strap that fits gently on the shoulder.

Tod's, of course, always keeps the luxurious traveler in mind. In this collection, soft cashmere scarves, gloves and hats come in juicy colors that will bring warmth to the chilly season; while the new Computer Bag will give style and protection to your laptop.

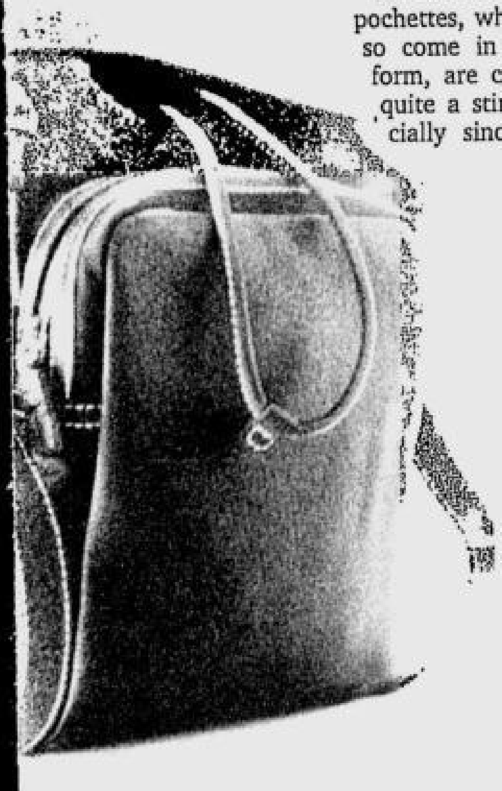
To say that J. P. Tod's has come a long way would be an understatement. From the original driving shoes to bags, to jackets, to sneakers, to cell-phone straps; Tod's evolution is the result of the brand's fearlessness in experimenting while maintaining its signature attention to detail, coupled with superb craftsmanship and luxurious materials.

Tod's is always daring yet remains utterly classic, chic and always original.

In the Philippines, Tod's is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Tod's is located at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

**MEN'S** gym bag in black high-tech fabric with pumpkin stitching

BEIA FORMOSO



permodel whose stint in "Starsky & Hutch," ht when you're matching with the glamorous Tod's g.

**ELIZABETH** Hurley, easily one of the sexiest and most gorgeous stars in film history, picks Tod's lime green D-bag Grande to lend chic contrast to her orange top and white jacket.

**LUCY** Liu, feisty in "Charlie's Angels" and "Kill Bill" and equally tough in the hit sitcom "Ally McBeal," tops off her casual LA chic look with a roomy orange Tod's D-bag, which is made of soft, supple leather.

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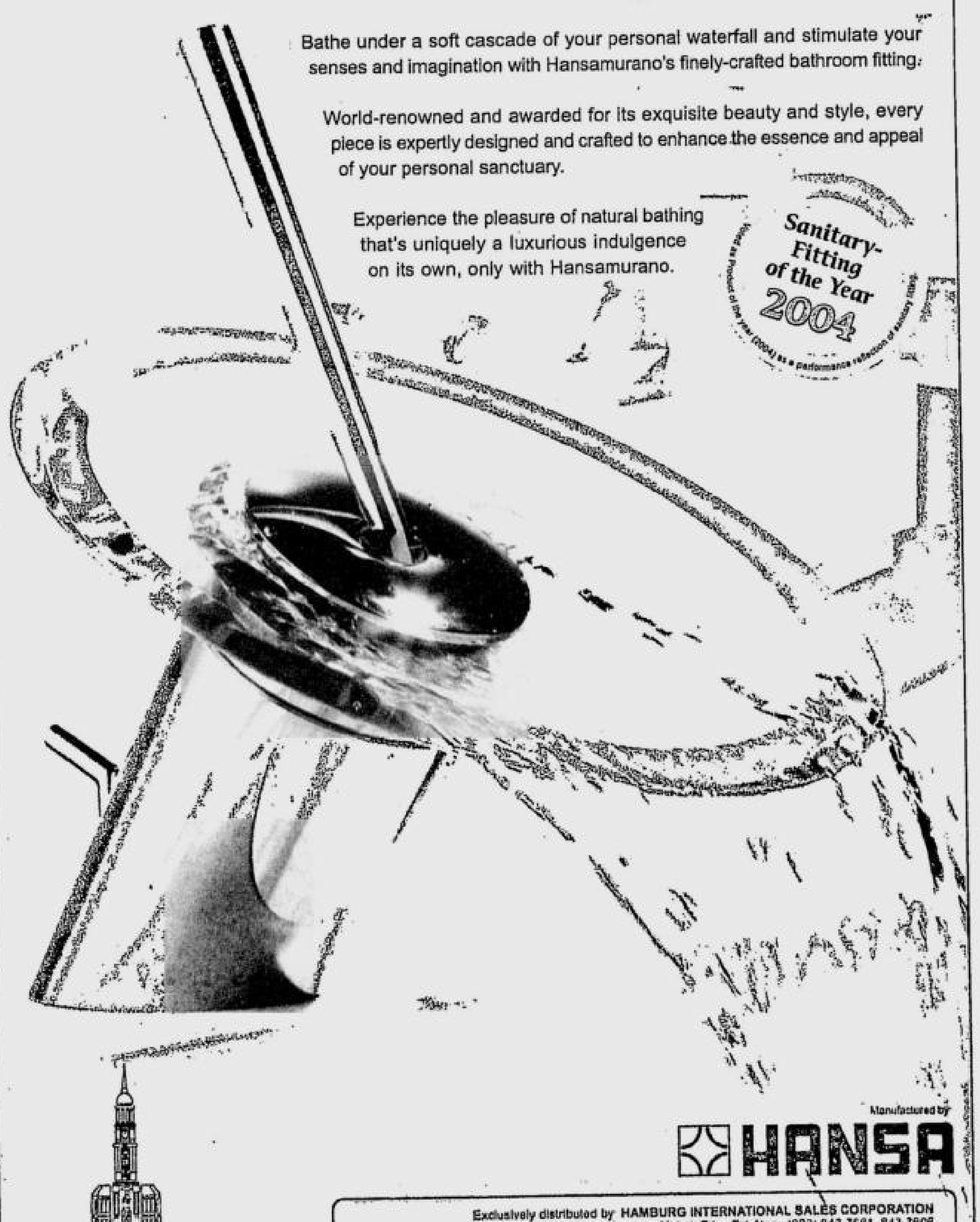

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# Male fashion essentials on sale

STA. LUCIA East Department Store presents Gentleman's Fair until June 30. Choose from a variety of classic formal to casual and sporty attire, shoes, bags and accessories at affordable prices. Get a free cell phone load for every P1,000 single purchase of men's and teenage boys' brands.

## GOINGS ON

**FESTIVAL.** The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents Tanghalang Pilipino's and Writers Bloc's first collaborative project, "The Virgin Labfest," a theater festival of untried/untested/unstaged / unpublished works, until June 12, at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Call 8323661, 8321125 or 8323704.

**CONCERT.** Paco Park Presents features "Sa Mahal Kong Bayan" tonight at 6. The program showcases mezzo soprano Nova Mancao-Ramirez, soprano Melanie Dujunco, tenor Nazer Salcedo, baritone Lionel Guico and pianist Filmer Flores. Admission is free.

**MALL ACTIVITIES.** The Star Group of Malls features chess masters Jayson Gonzales and Beverly Mendoza for a kiddie chess clinic on June 11, at 2/L, activity area, Starmall Edsa. The Incredible Dog Show will also be held on the same day at the same venue. On June 12, 4 p.m., a cultural dance presentation will be held at 4/L, Trade Hall of Metropolis Star Alabang, and 2/L, activity hub of Starmall Las Piñas.

**MUSICAL.** Concert at the Park presents "Pamana ng Lahi," featuring the PLM Hiyas ng Maynilad Dance Company and PLM Rondalla on June 12, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

**CONTEST.** Robinsons Malls invites high school and college students to join Street Art on Jeans competition. The contest will start on June 15 and the deadline for submission of entries is on July 15. Entry forms are available at information counters of Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Angeles and Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños.

**SEMINARS.** Corban Learning Center offers Easy English seminars on June 18-19, 2-5 p.m. Call 8426665 or 8093050.

**MEMBERS** of different committees headed by president Mellie Ablaza, directors Karen Macasaet, Boysie Villavicencio and chair Myrna Borromeo. The friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will hold a fund-raising fashion show, "Fashion for Fun," June 20, at the main lounge of the Manila Polo Club featurin FCCP members, their children and grandchildren.

The Call Center Pre-training Course Design workshop is on July 11-13, at the Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Bldg., Real cor. Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858 or 9254572.

The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation, Inc. will hold a seminar-workshop on Making Pre-school Training and Learning Fun Again on July 14-15 at the Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Building, Real cor. Magallanes Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858.

Dr. Esperanza Libunao, a certified public accountant and professor at the Graduate School of Business, Ateneo de Naga University, and director Marianito Dimaandal of the Presidential Staff, Malacañang Office, will give a seminar-workshop on Accounting for Non-accounting Officers in Barangays on July 18-19, at UP Alumni Hostel, UP Diliman, QC. Call 9279858.

**ECO-FAIR.** The world environment celebration "Para sa Inang Kalikasan" is slated on June 18-25, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at National Ecology Center, East Avenue, QC. The fair is open to the public.

**WORKSHOP.** Art professor Cecilia Angeles invites everyone to her Painting Made Easy workshop on June 21, 23, 28 and 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn and 1-5 p.m., at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8435341 or 8137420.

**INDUCTION.** Members of Hublag Jamindanganon-Manila are invited to attend its induction party on June 25, 6 p.m., at Abeerden Court, QC. Call 09196261529 or 9626313.

**PROGRAM.** The Japan Foundation grants an all-expense-paid trip to Japan for the Japanese-Language Program for overseas students. The foundation will administer a competitive/qualifying exam and interview on July 2, 8:30 a.m. The deadline for submission of registration forms is on June 29. Call 8116155.

**BOOK FAIR.** The 9th Philippine Academic Bookfair will be held on July 11-15, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at PTA Tent-Clamshell 2, General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858 or 9254572.

## *Independence Day concert*

SINAGTALA, in cooperation with the MCO Foundation and Equitable Bank, will hold a live Independence Day concert called "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" on June 12, 2 p.m., at Santiago Hall of Equitable Bank, Tower 1, HV de la Costa St. corner Makati Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati. This concert features the music of Francisco Santiago, who composed many patriotic songs, including "Pilipinas Kong Mahal."

This concert will open SinagTala's 2005 Concert Series and will feature sopranos Rachel Gerodias, Joanna Go and Alexis Edralin; tenors Ramon Acoymo, Jun Peñaverde, Nelson Caruncho and Nazer Salcedo; pianists Harold Galang, Najib Ismail, Peter Porticos, Filmer Flores, Julie Mendoza, Rollie Guingona, Heliodoro Fiel and Marnie Reyes; violinists Jason Templonuevo, Victoria Regalario and Raiza Santos; and cellist Anjo Inacay.

The pieces to be featured are Santiago's "Ave Maria," "Madaling Araw," "Pakiusap," "Ano Kaya ang Kapalaran," "Purita," "Nocturne in E Flat Minor" and "Remembrance."

SinagTala is an organization that promotes classical, choral and ethnic music.

Call SinagTala at 7261297, 7261567, 0918-XINTALA (9468252) or 0917-8543989; or MCO at 8181403 or 828 4358. Tickets are at P500 with a 50-percent discount for senior citizens and students with valid ID (maximum of two tickets per ID).

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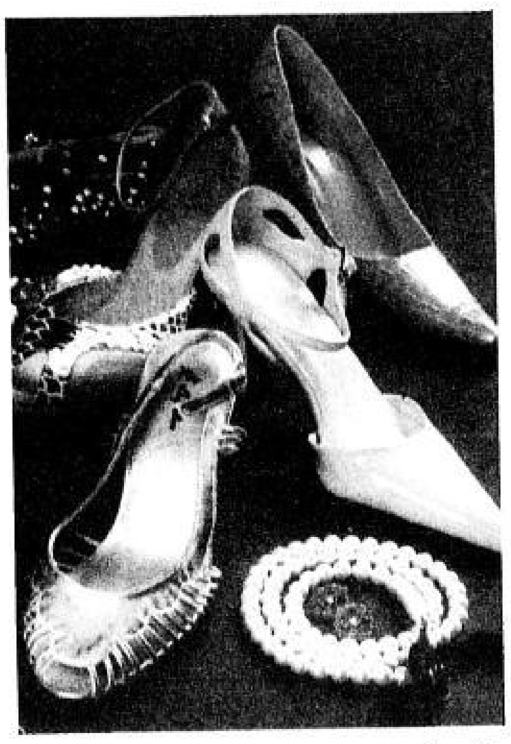

**AFTER-SIX** party shoes. Peep-toe mules with snakeskin detail from Jada, peep-toe sandals from Auztralian, patent leather shoes from Jada and faux alligator-skin pumps from Centropell

**BROWN** leather flats with ribbon detail, beige flats with ribbon detail, metallic gold flats and flower-printed flats with ribbon detail from Confetti; blue suede flats with flower detail

# Shoes for class days ahead

ROBINSONS Department Store has a "Shoes and Bags Fair" ongoing until June 15, with up to 50-percent discounts on selected items.

To complete your sporty look—whether for taebo, capoeira or badminton—you'll need cross-training athletic shoes that don't only look cool but also support the dynamic lifestyle you lead.

For the back-to-school season, a new pair of shoes is a staple in your child's must-have list. Check out the buckled or shoe-laced black leather basics at RDS and get dependable and budget-friendly choices.

RDS also has an array of dark-toned, tan or camel leather pumps, shiny dress shoes or moderately heeled Mary Janes for corporate go-getters, as well as strap sandals for that indispensable little black dress.

For a spirited night with friends, nothing beats brightly colored and heeled pumps to go with a layered girlie skirt, hobo bag, hip-hugging denims and eye-catching accessories. Or be your casual best with a pastel top over cargo khaki or pleated mini skirt and ballet or flower-bedecked flats.

Robinsons Department Stores are located in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall-Shaw, Metropolis and Festival Mall-Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph

**CHOCOLATE-BROWN** leather ankle-strapped mules, olive green patent leather pumps and black leather pumps from Auztralian; brown loafers, black leather lace-ups and black leather shoes with buckle from Gibi; camel leather ankle-strap mules from Jada

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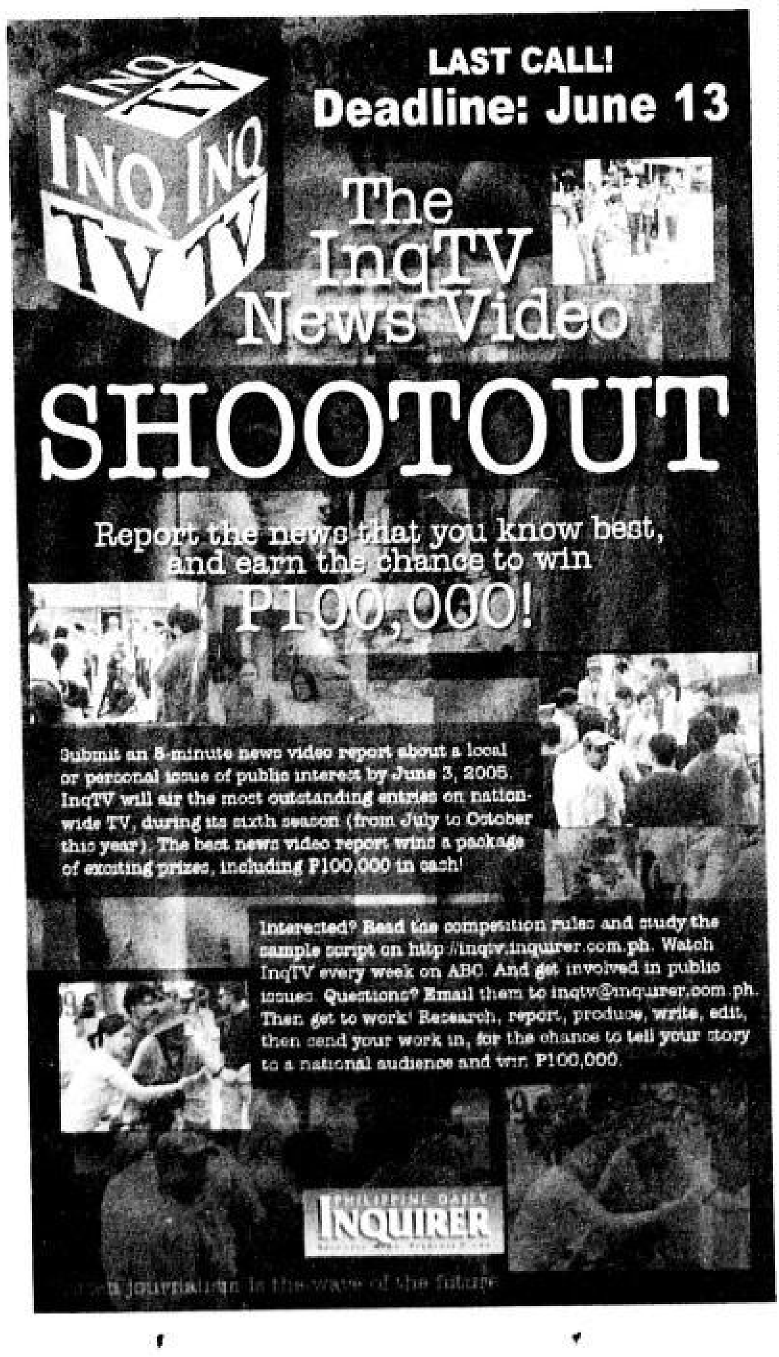

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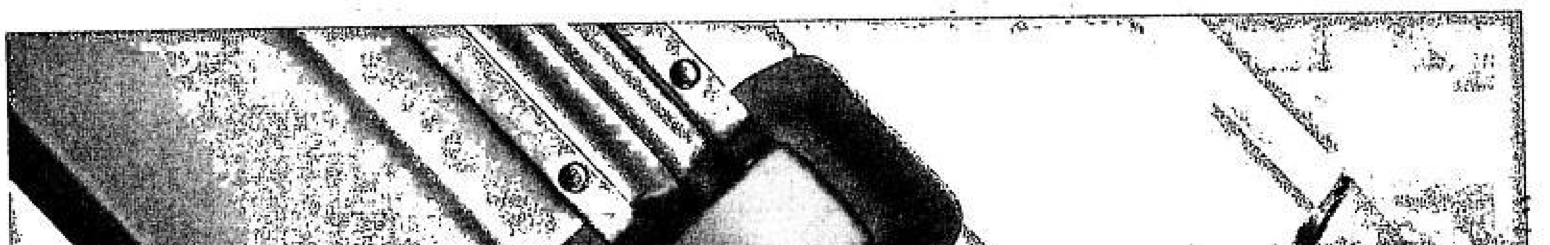
Interested? Read the competition rules and study the sample script on http://inqtv.inquirer.com.ph. Watch InqTV every week on ABC. And get involved in public issues. Questions? Email them to inqtv@inquirer.com.ph. Then get to work! Research, report, produce, write, edit, then send your work in, for the chance to tell your story to a national audience and win P100,000.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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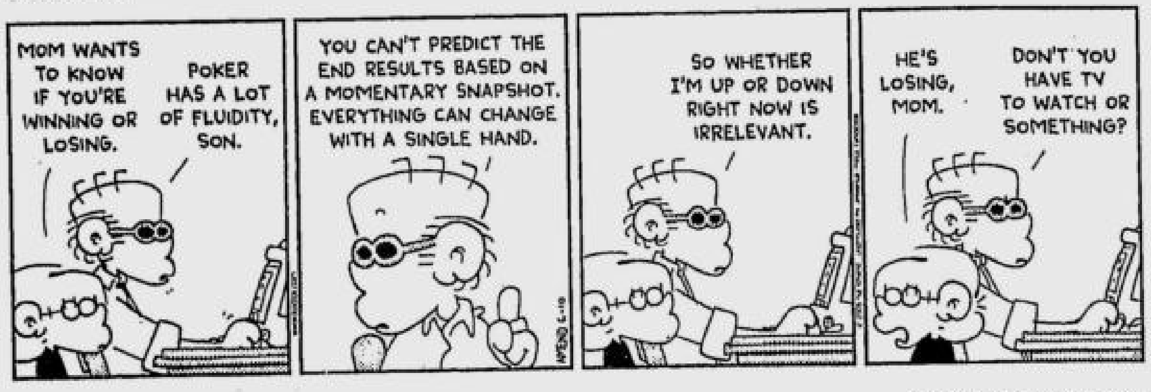
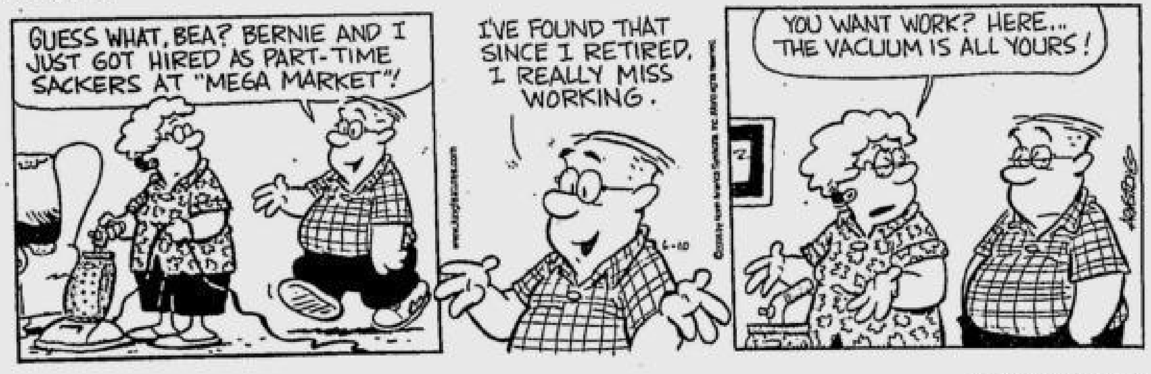
**FOXTROT**

BY BILL AMEND


MOM WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE WINNING OR LOSING.
POKER HAS A LOT OF FLUIDITY, SON.
YOU CAN'T PREDICT THE END RESULTS BASED ON A MOMENTARY SNAPSHOT. EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE WITH A SINGLE HAND.
SO WHETHER I'M UP OR DOWN RIGHT NOW IS IRRELEVANT.
HE'S LOSING, MOM.
DON'T YOU HAVE TV TO WATCH OR SOMETHING?

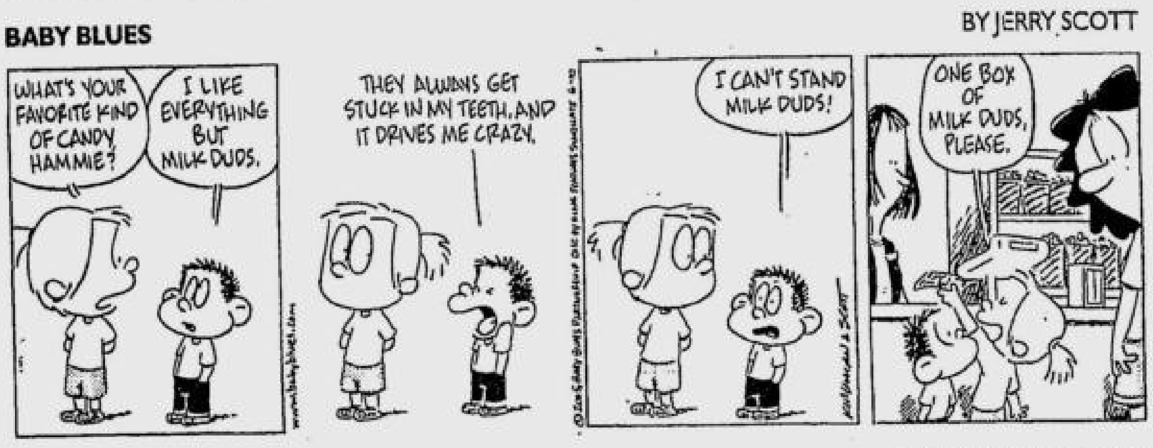
**MARVIN**

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GUESS WHAT, BEA? BERNIE AND I JUST GOT HIRED AS PART-TIME SACKERS AT "MEGA MARKET"!
I'VE FOUND THAT SINCE I RETIRED, I REALLY MISS WORKING.
YOU WANT WORK? HERE... THE VACUUM IS ALL YOURS!

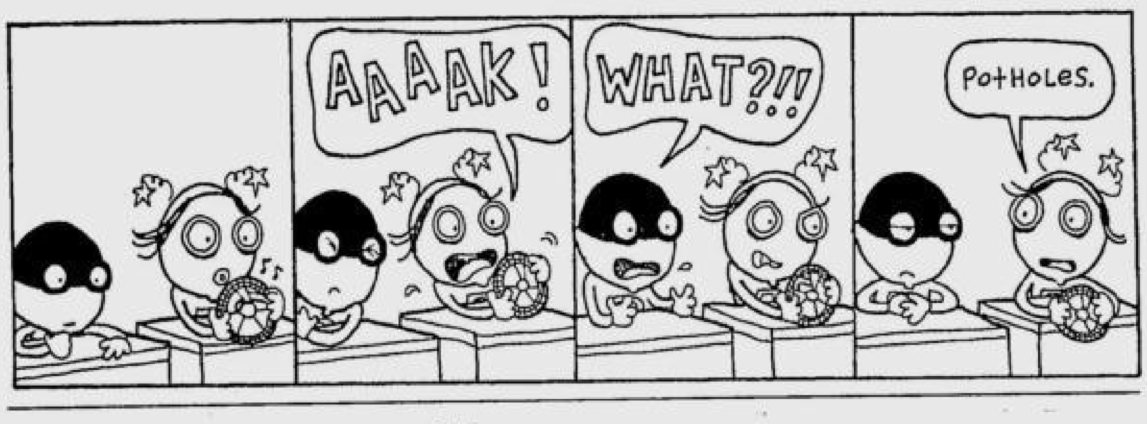
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF CANDY, HAMMIE?
I LIKE EVERYTHING BUT MILK DUDS.
THEY ALWAYS GET STUCK IN MY TEETH, AND IT DRIVES ME CRAZY.
I CAN'T STAND MILK DUDS!
ONE BOX OF MILK DUDS, PLEASE.

**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAAK!
WHAT?!!
PotHoles.

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're bold and daring. Your life has many ups and downs because you're not afraid to take risks. You're very capable at whatever you do. You have a deep, complex side that many are not aware of. Unusual things fascinate you. Major changes might take place this year, perhaps as significant as those in 1996.
Birthdate of: Faith Evans, singer; Judy Garland, singer/actress; Joey Zimmerman, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You might feel forced to defend your position about going overboard with family members or something related to your home. However, you really don't have to say anything.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You want to appease a situation. Perhaps you have an opportunity to smooth over troubled waters with relatives and siblings. Wait until the weekend to do this.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You want to throw your money around today. There's something you want to buy. Unfortunately, somebody doesn't agree with you. (You might have to compromise.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Someone might criticize you for feeling generous to family members today. Don't worry; we all have different values. Just be yourself and keep smiling.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** You have big ideas today. Your plans could involve using the property of others. Make sure you have their permission or their endorsement for your intentions. (You'll regret it if you don't.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** It's a curious thing, but rich friends can cost you money! You might discover this today. Don't spend too much money trying to impress anyone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You want to do something in a big way today. Unfortunately, this could entail persuading others to go along with your plans. This might not be as easy as you think. Have patience.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Anything connected with publishing, travel, foreign countries, the media and education will get a pleasant boost today. Just don't argue about how to divide it with others.

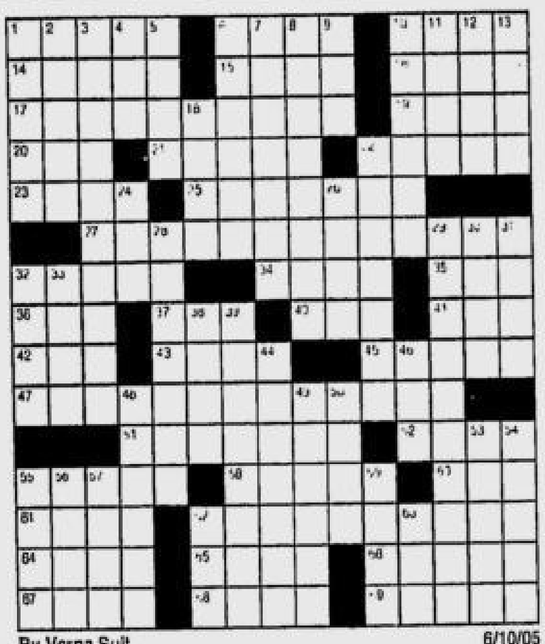
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Gifts that come your way could make someone jealous. Partners and romantic interests might not approve of your recent good fortune. Are they suspicious of something?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Favors from the boss could trigger disputes among co-workers. Others might be jealous of you. You might have to walk a fine line here to keep the peace.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** It looks like you can do something to make more money or to create a more favorable work scene for yourself. Be careful with financial speculation, however.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Your desire to have a good time and party it up a bit could create domestic tension. It's all right to have fun, but you have to keep the home fires burning as well.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



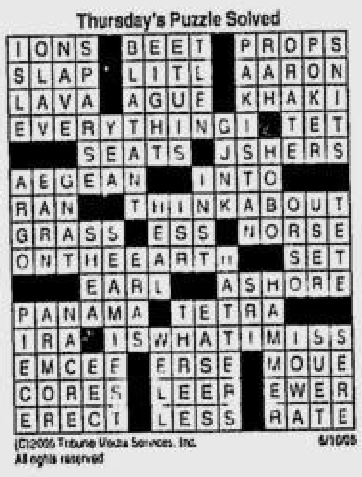
By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

6/10/05

**ACROSS**
1 Wacky Jerry
6 Yoko's family
10 Light touches
14 Make jubilant
15 Epistle apostle
16 Woodwind member
17 Renee Zellweger role
19 Zhivago's love
20 State north of Nev.
21 Single-celled creature
22 Mary-Kate or Ashley
23 Beatty and Buntline
25 Reply choice
27 Swit on "M*A*S*H"
32 Irish county
34 Fighting force
35 Pub potable
36 For each
37 Nav. by satellite
40 Secret agent
41 Dam-building grp.
42 NAFTA participant
43 Yucky food
45 Movie award
47 Mitzi Gaynor in "South Pacific"
51 Where to lose a kite
52 Char slightly
55 Street talk
58 Writer Madame de __
60 Play about Capote
61 Perforation
62 Girls' book RN heroine
64 Israeli diplomat Abba
65 Top-notch
66 Smiling
67 Bears' lairs
68 Comic Foxx
69 Ferber and Best

**DOWN**
1 Bolshevik leader
2 Artfully avoid
3 1937 Triple Crown winner
4 Possessive pronoun
5 Appear
6 Corkscrew, e.g.
7 Actress Richardson
8 Into the open
9 Like a fox
10 Hoi __
11 Arab garments
12 Ripped
13 Actor Connery
18 Irish lad
22 1955 Platters hit
24 Droop
26 Roast type
28 Workout segment
29 Terminator
30 Edison's middle name
31 Close at hand
32 Rotated
33 __-majesty
38 Entreaty
39 Non-tap dancing
44 Bodo
46 Former draft org
48 Tablecloths and sheets
49 Brought up
50 Pub potable
53 Game or battle site
54 Oxidizes
55 Outbuilding
56 Earring's location
57 Arkin or Greenspan
59 Greek harp
62 Train unit
63 Help

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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| S | L | A | P | ■ | L | I | T | L | ■ | A | A | R | O | N |
| L | A | V | A | ■ | A | G | U | E | ■ | K | H | A | K | I |
| E | V | E | R | Y | T | H | I | N | G | I | ■ | T | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | E | A | T | S | ■ | U | S | H | E | R | S |
| A | E | G | E | A | N | ■ | ■ | I | N | T | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | A | N | ■ | ■ | T | H | I | N | K | A | B | O | U | T |
| G | R | A | S | S | ■ | E | S | S | ■ | N | O | R | S | E |
| O | N | T | H | E | E | A | R | T | H | ■ | ■ | S | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | A | R | L | ■ | ■ | A | S | H | O | R | E |
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| I | R | A | ■ | I | S | W | H | A | T | I | M | I | S | S |
| E | M | C | E | E | ■ | E | R | S | E | ■ | M | O | U | E |
| C | O | R | E | S | ■ | L | E | E | R | ■ | E | W | E | R |
| E | R | E | C | T | ■ | L | E | S | S | ■ | R | A | T | E |

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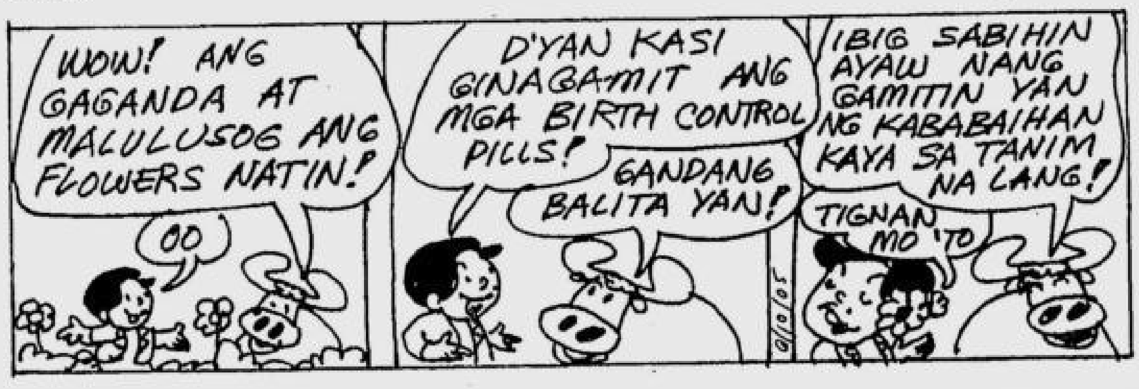
6/10/05

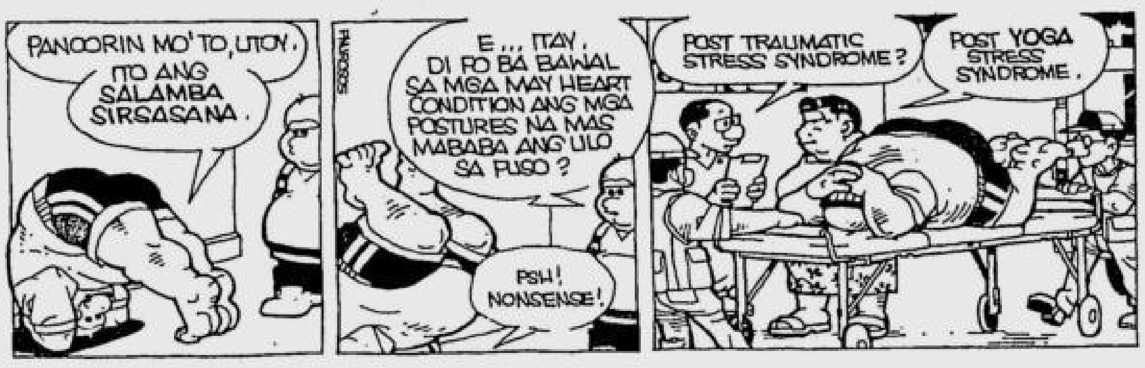
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


WOW! ANG GAGANDA AT MALULUSOG ANG FLOWERS NATIN!
OO
D'YAN KASI GINAGAMIT ANG MGA BIRTH CONTROL PILLS!
GANDANG BALITA YAN!
IBIG SABIHIN AYAW NANG GAMITIN YAN NG KABABAIHAN KAYA SA TANIM NA LANG!
TIGNAN MO 'TO

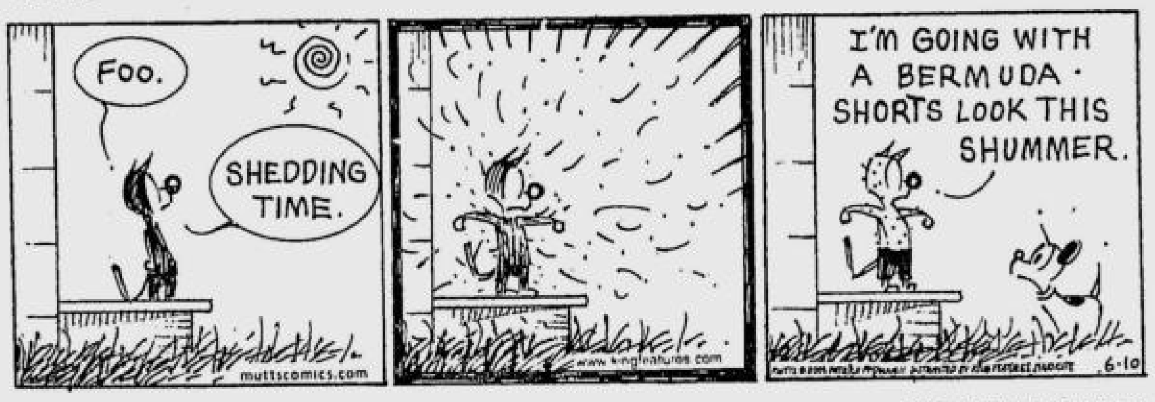
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PANOORIN MO' TO, UTOY. ITO ANG SALAMBA SIRSASANA.
E... ITAY, DI PO BA BAWAL SA MGA MAY HEART CONDITION ANG MGA POSTURES NA MAS MABABA ANG ULO SA PUSO?
PSH! NONSENSE!
POST TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME?
POST YOGA STRESS SYNDROME.

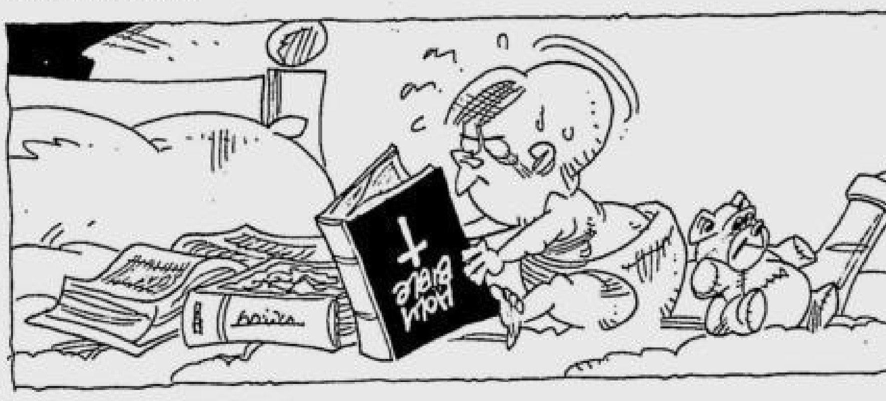
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Foo.
SHEDDING TIME.
I'M GOING WITH A BERMUDA SHORTS LOOK THIS SHUMMER.
mutttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
6-10

**DIVINE COMEDY**

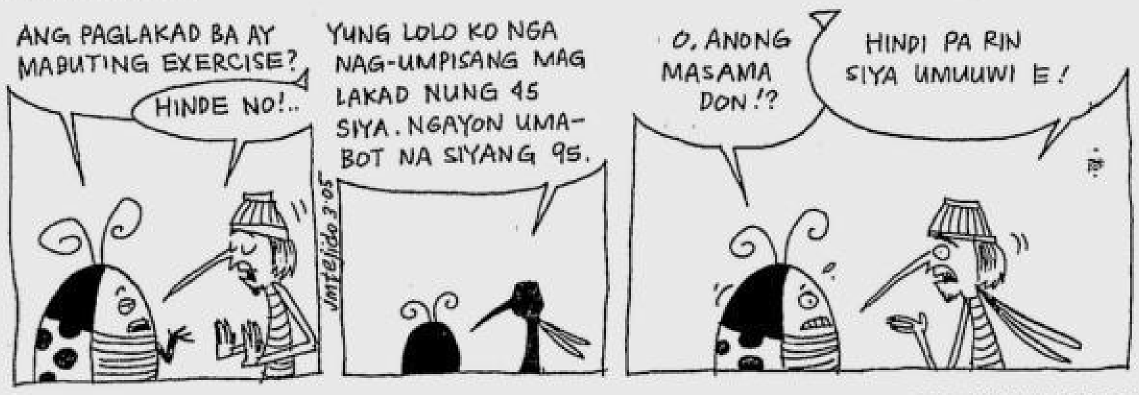
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



**8 MONTHS PA LANG SI NITOY AY NAGBABASA NA SYA NG BIBLE, KORAN AT BHAGAVAD-GITA. WALA SYANG NAINTINDIHAN SA MGA ITO**

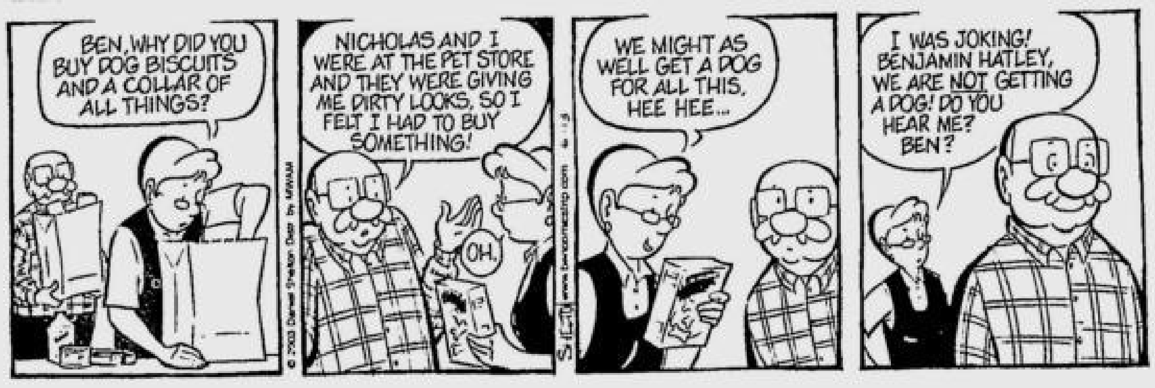
**MIKROKOSMOS**

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG PAGLAKAD BA AY MABUTING EXERCISE?
HINDE NO!..
YUNG LOLO KO NGA NAG-UMPISANG MAG LAKAD NUNG 45 SIYA. NGAYON UMABOT NA SIYANG 95.
O, ANONG MASAMA DON!?
HINDI PA RIN SIYA UMUUWI E!

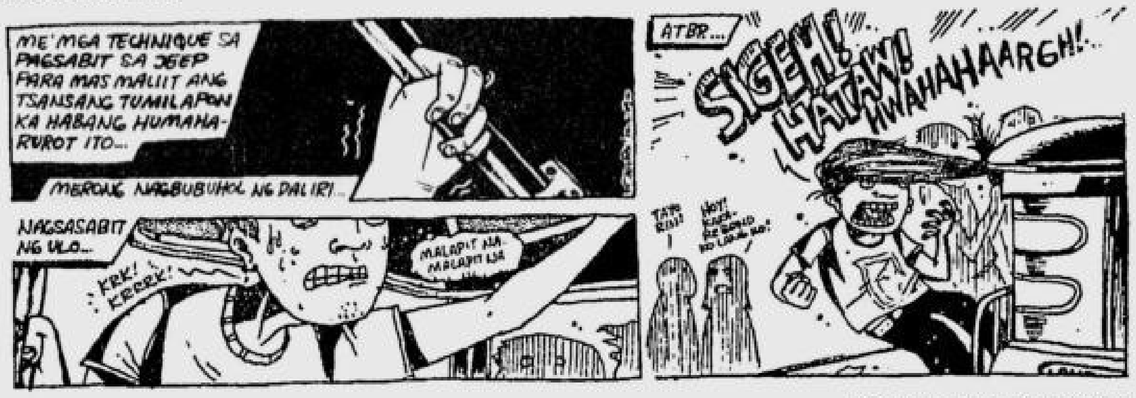
**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, WHY DID YOU BUY DOG BISCUITS AND A COLLAR OF ALL THINGS?
NICHOLAS AND I WERE AT THE PET STORE AND THEY WERE GIVING ME DIRTY LOOKS, SO I FELT I HAD TO BUY SOMETHING!
OH.
WE MIGHT AS WELL GET A DOG FOR ALL THIS. HEE HEE...
I WAS JOKING! BENJAMIN HATLEY, WE ARE NOT GETTING A DOG! DO YOU HEAR ME? BEN?

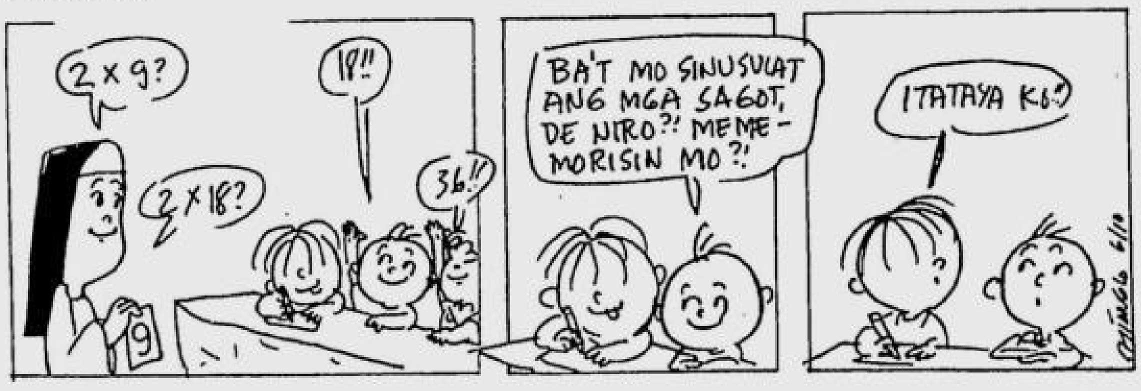
**KIKO MACHINE**

BY MANIX ABRERA


ME' MGA TECHNIQUE SA PAGSABIT SA JEEP PARA MAS MALIIT ANG TSANSANG TUMILAPON KA HABANG HUMAHARUROT ITO...
MERONG NAGBUBUHOL NG DALIRI...
NAGSASABIT NG ULO...
KRK! KRRRK!
MALAPIT NA MALAPIT NA
ATBP...
SIGE!! HATAW!! HWAHAHAARGH!!

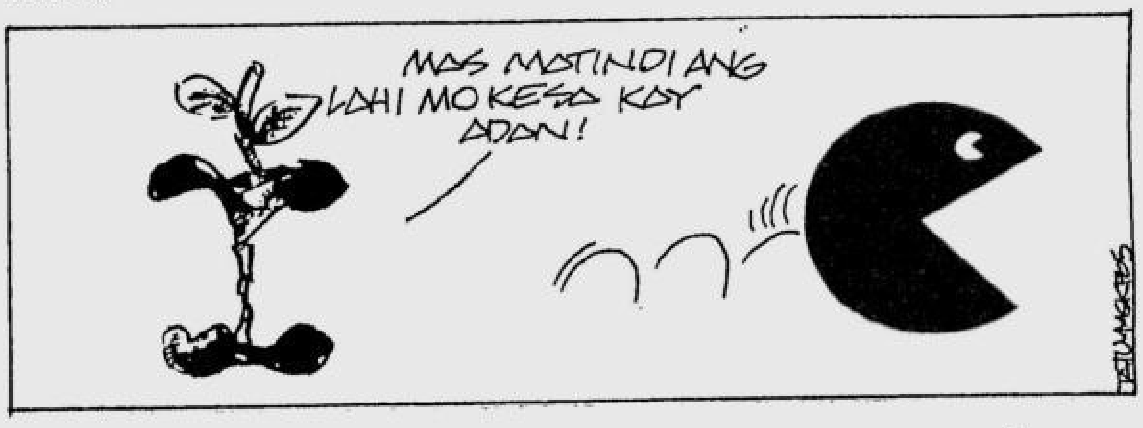
**LOVEKNOTS**

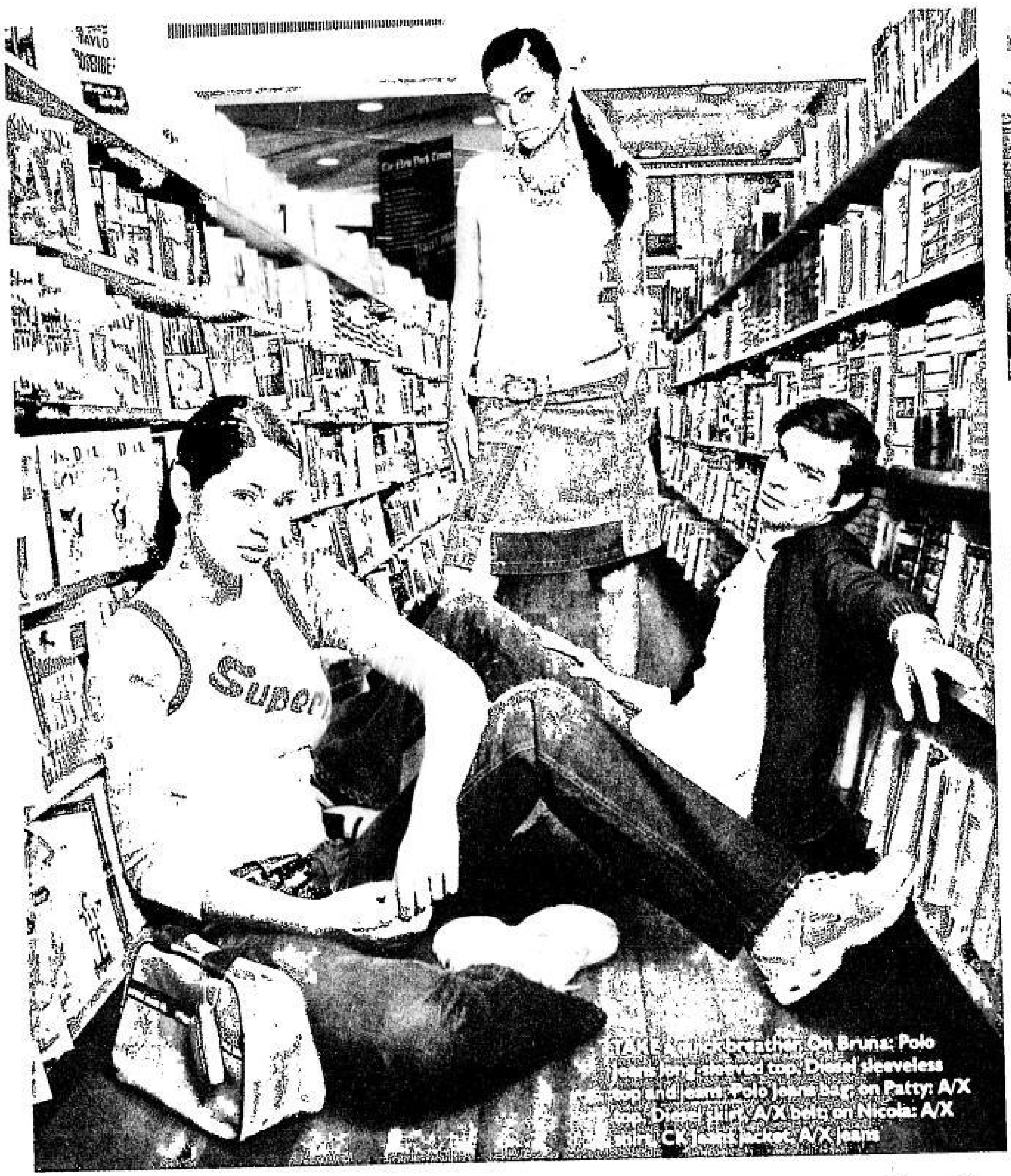
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


2 x 9?
18!!
2 x 18?
36!!
9
BA'T MO SINUSULAT ANG MGA SAGOT, DE NIRO?! MEMEMORISIN MO?!
ITATAYA KO?

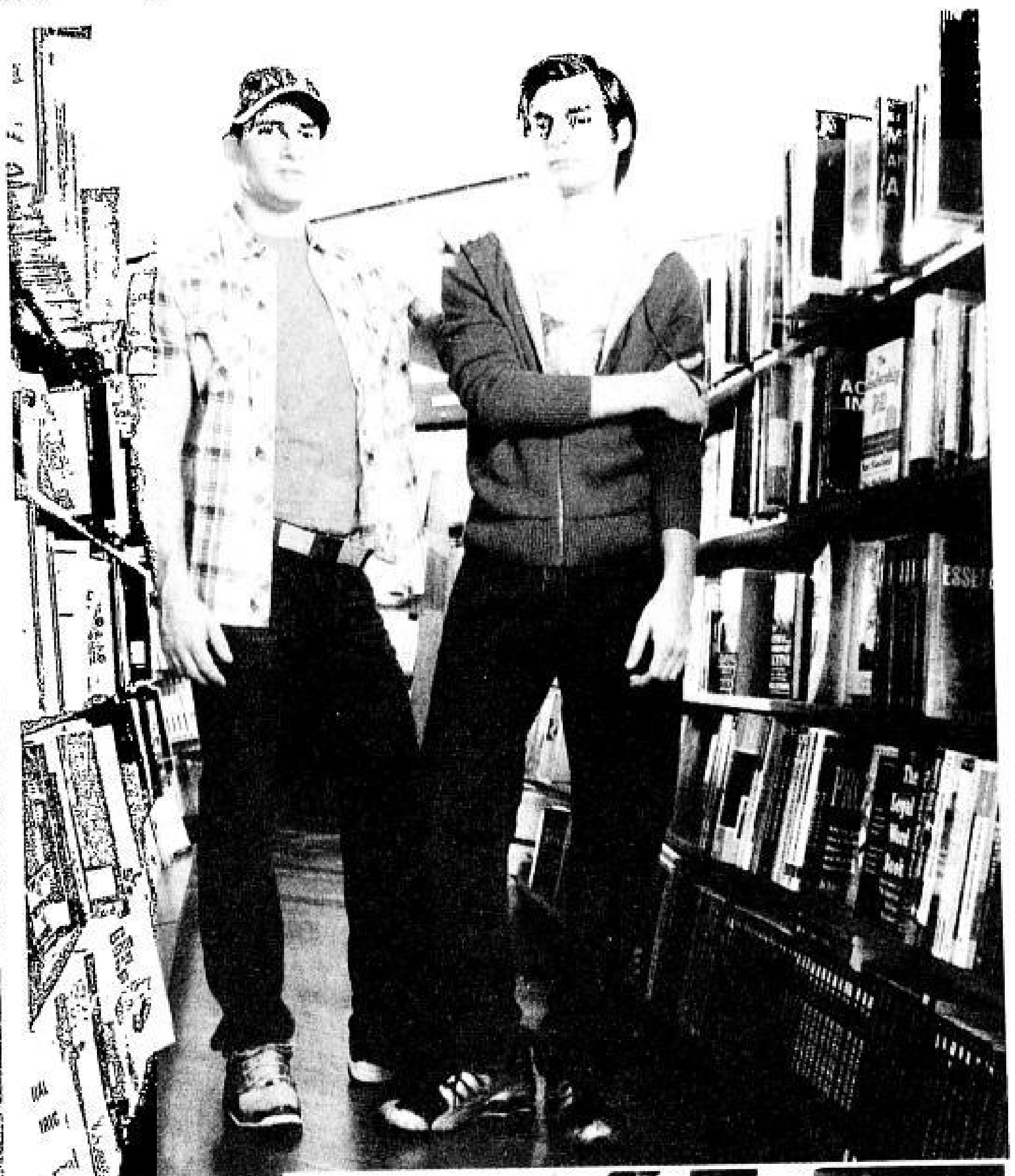
**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAS MATINDI ANG LAHI MO KESA KAY ADAN!

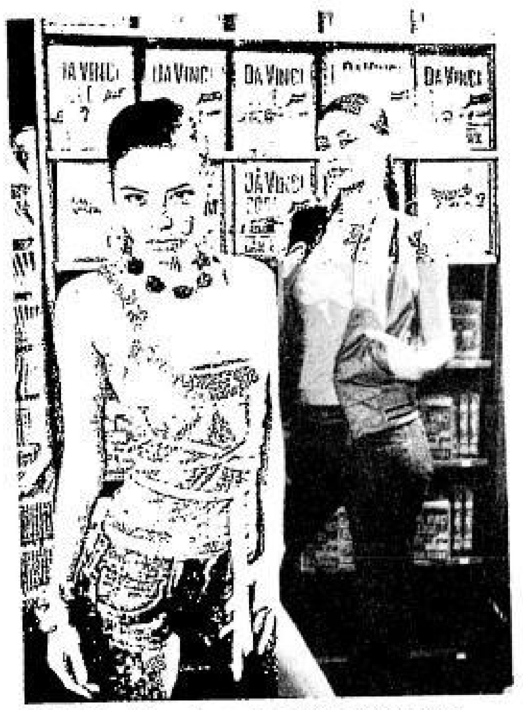


**TAKE a quick breather. On Bruna: Polo Jeans [illegible] sleeved top, Diesel sleeveless top and jeans, Polo Jeans bag; on Patty: A/X top, Diesel [illegible], A/X belt; on Nicola: A/X [illegible], CK Jeans jacket, A/X jeans**



**HIT the books in style. On Matt: Diesel top and pants, CK Jeans top, A/X belt and cap; on Nicola: DKNY top, Polo Jeans jacket and pants**

# Hip and hot on campus



**START a friendly competition. On Patty: Diesel top, A/X jeans; on Bruna: CK Red shirt, Diesel vest and jeans**

PUT the cool back in school with the hottest looks courtesy of Store Specialists, Inc. and its choice fashion brands.

Make sure you're on the A-list by picking up some fabulous fashion finds from Armani Exchange, Diesel, CK Jeans, Kenneth Cole, Polo Jeans Co. and DKNY.

The look this season is all about color. Mix in muted pastels and lots of sharp, striking accents, like turquoise, hot pink, and emerald. Check that you've got the right accessories—simple jewelry, a nice detailed belt, shades, and a pair of A/X jeans—and you'll be mastering the art of colorful accents in no time.

CK Jeans' latest line of distinctly color-stitched jeans will guarantee you a crisp, clean look come crunch time, while Kenneth Cole's natural neutrals, cool casuals and smart jeans will win you the Best Dressed award at your next college mixer. Maybe you'll even make it all the way to the yearbook.

When you're taking your orals, it's always a good idea to be dressed appropriately. The perfect printed tops and jackets come from DKNY's latest season. Slip on a pair of super-comfortable jeans and you're a winner all the way.

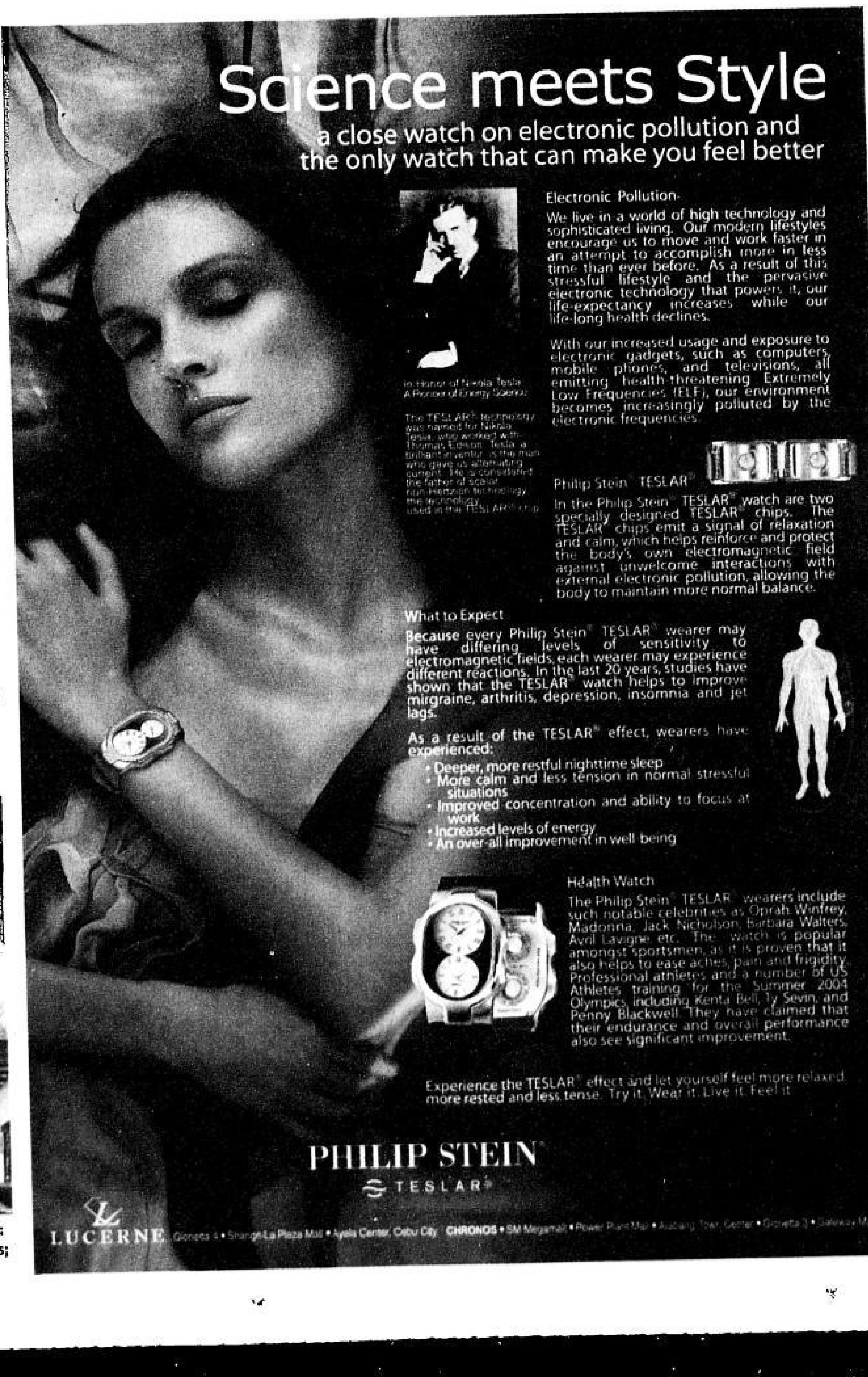
Polo Jeans Co. has just the right relaxed fit jeans for your lazy, lounge-about breaks, and will give you a better chance of hooking up with the varsity cutie standing by the hotdog stand. Score!

For your books, papers and whatnot, pick up a graphic print bag and pair it with a patchwork jean skirt or a pair of deconstructed denims from Diesel, and watch everyone drool.

**GET yourself some good reviews. On Nicola: Diesel top, A/X belt, CK Jeans; on Bruna: A/X beret, CK Jeans top, Diesel belt and jeans.**

**STACK up on school chic. On Matt: Kenneth Cole top, CK Jeans pants; on Bruna: CK Jeans top, Diesel jacket, Diesel jeans, A/X bag**

**STAND OUT and stand proud. On Bruna: CK Jeans top, Diesel jeans and A/X bag; on Nicola: Polo Jeans Cap, Diesel top, Polo Jeans pants; on Patty: Polo Jeans top, Diesel jacket and pants; on Matt: Kenneth Cole top, Diesel pants**



Science meets Style
a close watch on electronic pollution and
the only watch that can make you feel better

In Honor of Nikola Tesla
A Pioneer of Energy Science

The TESLAR® technology was named for Nikola Tesla, who worked with Thomas Edison. Tesla, a brilliant inventor, is the man who gave us alternating current. He is considered the father of scalar non-Hertzian technology, the technology used in the TESLAR® chip.

Electronic Pollution

We live in a world of high technology and sophisticated living. Our modern lifestyles encourage us to move and work faster in an attempt to accomplish more in less time than ever before. As a result of this stressful lifestyle and the pervasive electronic technology that powers it, our life-expectancy increases while our life-long health declines.

With our increased usage and exposure to electronic gadgets, such as computers, mobile phones, and televisions, all emitting health-threatening Extremely Low Frequencies (ELF), our environment becomes increasingly polluted by the electronic frequencies.

Philip Stein® TESLAR®

In the Philip Stein® TESLAR® watch are two specially designed TESLAR® chips. The TESLAR® chips emit a signal of relaxation and calm, which helps reinforce and protect the body's own electromagnetic field against unwelcome interactions with external electronic pollution, allowing the body to maintain more normal balance.

What to Expect

Because every Philip Stein® TESLAR® wearer may have differing levels of sensitivity to electromagnetic fields, each wearer may experience different reactions. In the last 20 years, studies have shown that the TESLAR® watch helps to improve mirgraine, arthritis, depression, insomnia and jet lags.

As a result of the TESLAR® effect, wearers have experienced:

- Deeper, more restful nighttime sleep
- More calm and less tension in normal stressful situations
- Improved concentration and ability to focus at work
- Increased levels of energy
- An over-all improvement in well-being

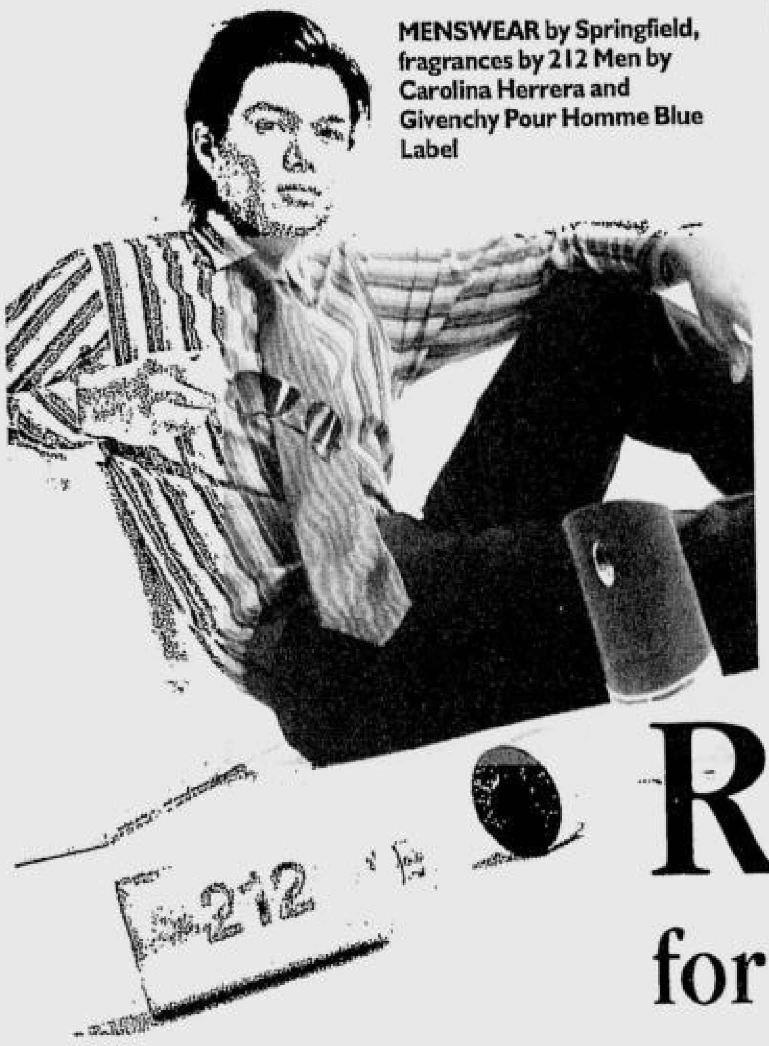
Health Watch

The Philip Stein® TESLAR® wearers include such notable celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Madonna, Jack Nicholson, Barbara Walters, Avril Lavigne etc. The watch is popular amongst sportsmen, as it is proven that it also helps to ease aches, pain and frigidity. Professional athletes and a number of US Athletes training for the Summer 2004 Olympics, including Kenta Bell, Ty Sevin, and Penny Blackwell. They have claimed that their endurance and overall performance also see significant improvement.

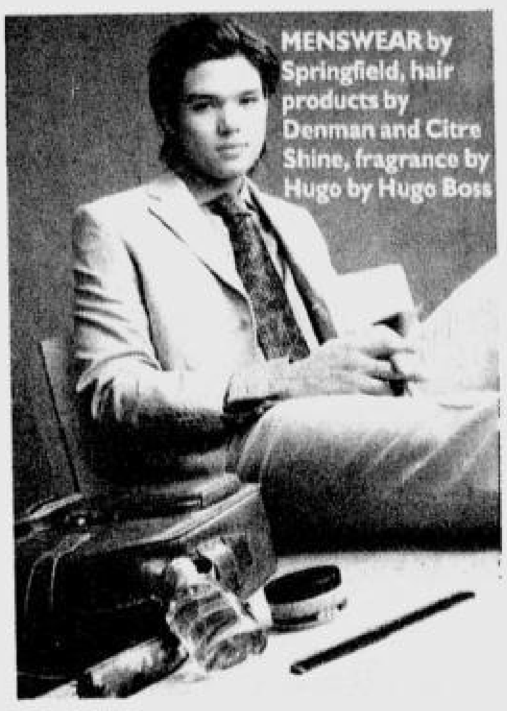
Experience the TESLAR® effect and let yourself feel more relaxed, more rested and less tense. Try it. Wear it. Live it. Feel it.

PHILIP STEIN®
TESLAR®

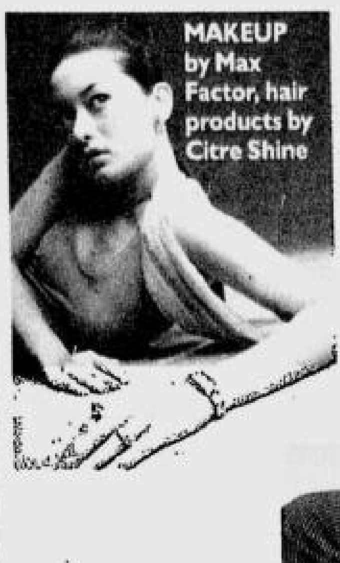
LUCERNE Glorietta 4 • Shangri-La Plaza Mall • Ayala Center, Cebu City CHRONOS • SM Megamall • Power Plant Mall • Alabang Town Center • Glorietta 3 • [illegible] Mall



**MENSWEAR** by Springfield, fragrances by 212 Men by Carolina Herrera and Givenchy Pour Homme Blue Label



**MENSWEAR** by Springfield, hair products by Denman and Citre Shine, fragrance by Hugo by Hugo Boss



**MAKEUP** by Max Factor, hair products by Citre Shine

CLOTHES BY COLOUR 18 AND SPRINGFIELD
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY CITRE SHINE AND MAX FACTOR
WATCHES BY ANNE KLEIN - AVAILABLE IN ANNE KLEIN BOUTIQUES, CHRONOS, L TIMESTUDIO, LUCERNE, AND RUSTANS DEPARTMENT STORES.
ALL FRAGRANCES ARE EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY RUSTAN MARKETING CORPORATION IN LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE.

# Ready for the race

YOU'VE graduated to the next phase of your life. It's time to join the rat race—your first resumé, your first interview, your first corporate get-up, your first job. So get yourself ready the proper way.

Go natural. Chic and neat is the way to go. Makeup authority Max Factor suggests subtle cheeks, soft lips and a touch of color to brighten up the eyes. For a clean, no-nonsense look, sweep up hair and keep it in place with Citre Shine hair stylers and shine treatments.

Create impact with versatile pieces in colors that flatter—pastels by Colour 18, turquoise watch by Anne Klein. Keep the face simple but polished. For that perfect, natural look, use Colour Adapt by Max Factor. Pinks and browns are great on the eyes, while Silk Gloss gives your lips high-beam lasting shine with the smooth feel of a lip balm. To finish, spray on a confident scent like Babydoll Paris by Yves Saint Laurent, or Green Tea by Elizabeth Arden.

Whatever the situation, looking good always gives you the edge. And with Springfield and Colour 18, you're ready for just about anything. Keep in time with faux crocodile leather watches by Anne Klein. For added character, try Desire Blue for men or Desire for women, scents from the English house of Dunhill.

Count on Springfield for modern takes on classics that make the right statement in a corporate environment. Complete the ensemble with the cosmopolitan scent of 212 Men by Carolina Herrera, or the more casual but invigorating Givenchy Pour Homme Blue Label.

Going all the way. The secret to success is feeling like you've already achieved it. Dress, look and feel the part. For attitude, go for Springfield and Colour 18. Tailored can be feminine with a fitted suit and contrasting red leather watch by Anne Klein. Made up but not overdone? There's Max Factor—Earth Spirits Stormy Blue for the eyes, Silk Gloss Caramel Crème on the lips. The perfect scents? Paco Rabanne's Ultraviolet and Ultraviolet Man, new generation fragrances dedicated to trend-setters looking for new experiences.

Springfield boasts a wide collection of shirts, jackets, ties and pants that will earn you high marks from all levels. And don't forget your bag of grooming must-haves—comb and brush by Denman, Citre Shine glossing pomade and Hugo by Hugo Boss.

**LADIES'** wear by Colour 18, watch by Anne Klein, makeup by Colour Adapt Max Factor, fragrances by Babydoll Paris by Yves Saint Lauren and Green Tea by Elizabeth Arden

**LADIES'** wear by Colour 18, menswear by Springfield, fragrances by Desire Blue for men and women, timepiece by Anne Klein, fragrances by Desire Blue for men and women

**LADIES** wear by Colour 18, menswear by Springfield, timepiece by Anne Klein, eye color from Max Factor's Earth Spirits Stormy Blue, lip shade from Max Factor's Silk Gloss Caramel Crème, fragrances by Paco Rabanne's Ultraviolet

HUNGRY TO LEARN Your child has got a big appetite for learning. Get her ready for school with a complete selection of items at Starmall.

LAS PIÑAS (872-5249)
June 1- Arts & Crafts Livelihood, 2/L Activity Hub
June 4- Cable Link Star Idol Search by Star World, Activity Hub
June 7, 21- Ceramic Painting for Kids, Wellness Hub
June 9, 23- Badminton Clinic, Wellness Hub
June 11- "An Incredible Dog Show", Activity Hub
June 12- Heroes Dance: An Independence Day Special
June 14, 28- Belly Dancing class, Wellness Hub
June 18, 25- Philippine Red Cross First Aid training for kids
June 19- Father's Day treats at the mall, Design Dad's Necktie contest
June 26- Bridal fair at the Activity Hub

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG (850-3845)
June 2, 16, 30- Arts & Crafts Livelihood, 4/L
June 4- Star Model Quest Grand Finals, 4/L, Trade Hall
June 5- Stilts Walker @ Starland, 4pm
June 11- Jaya Album Tour, 5pm, 4/L, Trade Hall
June 12- Independence Day Celebration: "Folk Dance Presentation", 4pm, 4/L, Trade Hall
June 19- Father's Day Celebration "Daddy ko, Love ko 'To!" Videoke Contest, 4pm, 4/L, Trade Hall
June 26- Puzzle Mania Day @ Starland, 4pm
Mondays- Ladies' Night Acoustics @ Mark's Bar, 7pm
Tuesdays- For the Boys @ Mark's Bar
Wednesdays- Star Dance Revolution 2nd Episode, 6pm, 2/L

EDSA SHAW (718-1886)
June 4- Jollibee Kids Fun Activities
June 9- Arts & Crafts feat. give-aways for well-wishers
June 18- Muay Thai Kickboxing National Team Exhibition Event
June 19- A Father's Day special feat. Jollibee activities, 2pm
June 19- Jaya Album Tour, 5pm
June 23- Arts & Crafts feat. the art of making guest books & invitation cards
June 25- Bridal Fashion Show
June 26- Music from The Screen feat. duet singing competition winners
Mondays- Sahaja Yoga
Tuesdays- Rappenings Rap Competition at the Mall
Wednesdays & Fridays- Acoustic Nights at The Bridge

starmall
Stay awhile.

HAIL Mary boys fete new Central Bank gov /G2

# LIFESTYLE

# Vera Wang, John Varvatos picked as year's best fashion designers

NEW YORK—Stars of stage, screen and music have worn Vera Wang's gowns to accept top awards for years, but Wang has finally picked up her first trophy as the year's top womenswear designer.

"I'm really incredibly honored," Wang said. "Even at my age dreams in life can really come true."

The Council of Fashion Designers of America also selected John Varvatos as the best menswear designer.

Supermodel Kate Moss received an award for her fashion influence, following in the stiletto steps of previous winners Sarah Jessica Parker and Nicole Kidman. She wore a nude-colored strapless corset dress with a black lace overlay as she accepted her award from David Bowie.

Diane von Furstenberg wore one of her signature wrap dresses as she was honored for her three decades in the fashion business. "I feel very nice about my peers honoring me," Von Furstenberg told The Associated Press. "You compete with each other but we're also colleagues. We help each other and we cheer each other."

Lubov Azria, who shares design duties with her husband Max on the ready-to-wear line

VERA/ G3

**VERA Wang** holds the award she received for Womanswear Designer of the Year at the 2005 CFDA Fashion Awards in New York. AP

WELLA

## CARAVAN OF BEAUTY

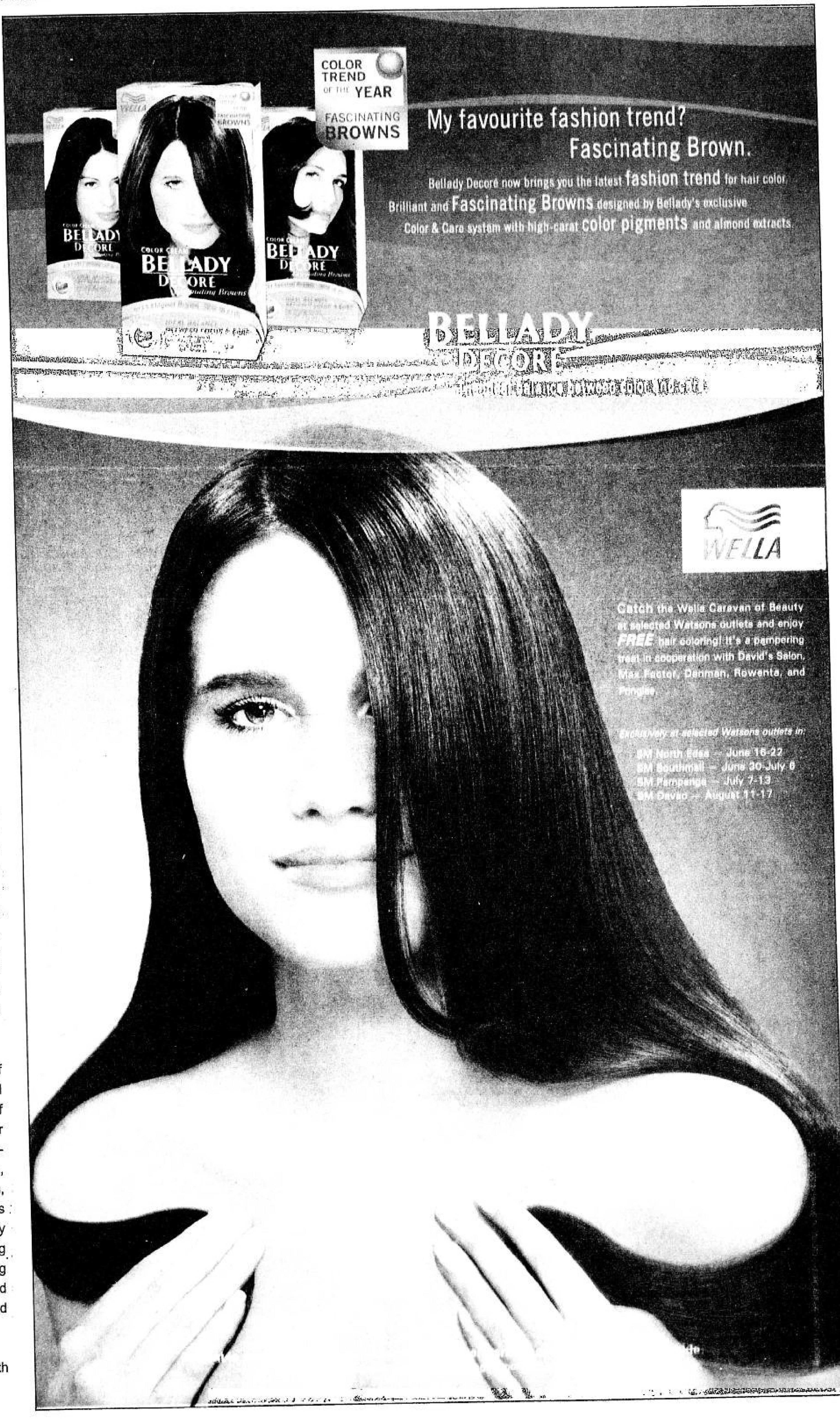
Want a free beauty makeover? Catch the **Wella** "Caravan of Beauty" at Watsons SM North Edsa on June 16-22, SM Southmall on June 30-July 6, SM Pampanga on July 7-13, and SM Davao on August 11-17. Experience a pampering treat that includes on-the-spot hair coloring by **Wella *Bellady Decoré*** and makeup by **Max Factor.** The hair-coloring sessions will be conducted by a masterful team of David's Salon stylists.

***Bellady Decoré*** is a line of do-it-yourself hair colorants. It comes in a wide assortment of shades, from Naturals to Reds, and a more daring Fashion color palette. The Naturals include Fascinating Browns -- **Wella's** "Color Trend of the Year" available in Sensual, Elegant, and Silky Brown.

***Bellady Decoré*** boasts of an ideally-balanced "color and care" system which ensures optimum coloration for each strand from roots to tips, without damaging effects. It even offers an improved conditioner that combines the nourishing properties of Almond Extracts, D-Panthenol, and Vitamin E to keep hair smooth and healthy, while enhancing shine. In less than an hour, you can transform from so-so to stunning right in the convenience of your own home!

Check out the benefits of ***Bellady Decoré*** from the mall tour of the Wella "Caravan of Beauty" - stopping over at other Watsons outlets soon! Co-sponsored by David's Salon, Max Factor, Denman brushes, Rowenta hairdryers, and Pringles potato crisps. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores, health and beauty shops, drugstores, and supermarkets nationwide.

Visit the Wella animation booth for details.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Catch the Wella Caravan of Beauty at selected Watsons outlets and enjoy FREE hair coloring! It's a pampering treat in cooperation with David's Salon, Max Factor, Denman, Rowenta, and Pringles.
Exclusively at selected Watsons outlets in:
SM North Edsa — June 16-22
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SM Pampanga — July 7-13
SM Davao — August 11-17

**THE HOST,** Asian Spirit chair Noel Oñate, with some of the honorees, including hotshot Ateneans Defense Secretary Nonong Cruz, Presidential Management Staff Sec. Bobby Tiglao, incoming Central Bank Gov. Say Tetangco, Bobby Ortiz and Tito Cipriano

**VICTORY** Liner president Ces Hernandez, Jun Cua, Alfred Chua and Tito Cipriano

**RICKY** Alfonso, EVP for State Investment Tito Lopez-Dee, and PNB Insurance president Joey Zuñiga

# Flying high with Blue Eagles '73

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

POPULAR and brilliant CEO and chair **Noel Oñate** of Asian Spirit and his wife, old-wealth socialite **Marianne Uy**, recently threw open the doors of their sprawling, beautifully furnished home to celebrate Noel's super gang of classmates belonging to Ateneo Class of 1973.

And before I could even bat an eyelash, there they were, around 80 diehard Blue Eagles, circulating all over the living room and garden, *palanggas*, while *moi* was being introduced around by the host.

One of them bluntly asked me If I felt bothered with all the Ateneans around, *moi* being the only diehard La Sallite in the house. All I answered was, "I came ready with my bow and arrow," to which he replied, "Yes, you are brave."

**"STAR WARS"** die-hards Gippy Tantoco and wife Hindy Weber with son Lucas

**HOLD** that well. Brian Quebengco and Lawrence Manalang

**GANG** of three. Stephen Ku with Embassy's cool ambassadors Erick Cua and Jon Herrera

I met several hotshot individuals who all came from the Ateneo class known for its powerhouse set, with the distinction of having produced, take note, *palanggas*, four summa cum laudes: **Paul Dumol, Bien Tan III, Noli Sumulong** and **Douglas Lim.**

The class also produced two consecutive bar topnotchers—first placer **Dave Germundo** (1977) and **Cosme Rosell** (1978)—as well as a Central Bank governor, Cabinet members, justices and local officials, and other luminaries in the business, entertainment, academic and financial fields.

Now, even a jaded La Sallite like me was floored. Actually, the really fun cocktail party was to honor incoming Central Bank Gov. Say Tetangco, Defense Sec. **Nonong Cruz,** Presidential Management Staff Sec. **Bobby Tiglao,** Court of Appeals justices **Ed Camello** and **Chichi Castañeda,** charming Department of Transportation and Communications Undersecretary **Ricky Alfonso,** Metropolitan Manila Development Authority general manager **Robert Nancianceno,** Bank of Philippine Islands hot president **Gigi Montinola** and Metrobank Foundation president **Chito Sobrepena.**

If I had to rely only on my memory, I would never have been able to get all the names of these fascinating, awesome personalities. So I asked one of the Ateneans and Noel to give me their names and positions.

## Roll call

Okay, roll-call time. Visibly having a great time catching up on days gone by and the present, plus the country's current economic situation, were hotshot namedroppables such as **Michael Escaler, Opet Velasquez, Bert Jacobe, Louie Jalandoni, Santiago Cua,** PNB Insurance president **Joey Zuñiga, Benjamin Bitanga,** Victory Liner president **Ces Hernandez, Ed Tintoc,** Land Bank VP **Reeves Vergara, Rico Pelaez,** EVP State Investment's **Tito Lopez Dee, Robert Ortiz, Gonza Teehankee,** GMA VP **Butch Raquel,** Philippine Tourism Authority director **Butch Veloso, Freddie Pineda,** BPI Investment Management president **Dojo Sison, Vicente Mendoza, Popoy Recalde, Monchito Roco, Ives Nisce,** former Quezon City Mayor **Jun Simon,** China Trust senior VP **Alfred Chua, Bobi Alegre, Pep de Leon, Bobby Bautista, David Tinio, Boy Ong, Sonny Pasco, George Pimentel, Alex Buenaventura, Max Joaquin, Manoshi Gadi, Gabby Tong, Oscar Jorge, Renato Garcia, Noel Malaya, Jess Birosel, Tonton Avelino, Tito Cipriano,** Export Import Bank EVP **Toto Claravall, Rene Ongpin, Bobby Demigillo, Barry Purisima** and, last but definitely not the least, **Beli Belizario.**

*Apres* all the "hellos" and high fives, the Ateneans dug into the excellently prepared menu by the always consistent La Tasca, *palanggas.* The invitees had a choice of healthy fare with springrolls of Portabello mushrooms, goat cheese and arugula with tomato dip, seared tuna with soy syrup topped with wasabi cream, laguna cheese with mini *pan de sal,* and cherry tomatoes stuffed with local bacalao, among others.

The less health-conscious eaters had lamb kurma with condiments served with papadums; spiced pork boneless spareribs; crispy *tapa* and *longganisa* roll, plus other cholesterol-rich yummies, all drowned with Brut Imperial Moet & Chandon champagne, Beringer Founders' Estate Cabaret Sauvignon and Reserve Montes Sauvignon Blanc.

After all, Noel and Marianne are well-known wine connoisseurs.

Those wanting to indulge in something naughtier (and there were a lot!) had vodka martinis, scotch in all colors, and brandy, including Chivas Regal and the lethal Tequila Petron, no less, which got the Eagles flying high, *palanggas.*

## 'Star Wars' in a cup!

Yummy ice cream superbrand Nestlé staged a glitzy *tres prive* screening of the world's favorite movie, "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith," at Greenbelt 3 Cinema, *palanggas.*

Taking centerstage at the event, was *naturellement,* the biggest star of them all, Nestlé's delicious new "Star Wars Wondercup," a "Revenge of the Sith"-inspired ice cream cup that's a burst of blue slush.

As an added treat, check this out—each Wondercup comes with a special "Star Wars" mini figurine collectible!

Our town's *tres* visible party- and event-goers got to taste Nestlé's newest offering at the screening: VJ **Maike Evers,** Ideal Minds' **Chris Tan,** soulmates **Ipe Cruz** and **David Nugent,** stylist **Charmaine Palermo** and makeup maven **Leo Posadas, Chicho Suarez,** hot model **Brent Javier,** sultry **Kelly Misa, Isha Andaya,** dynamic Nestlé AVP **Myra Pineda.**

They all stocked up on popcorn after downing Nestlé's yummy ice cream, and settled down to get the thrill of another "Star Wars" episode, *palanggas.*

**YOUNG PR** wiz GP Reyes and Men's Room funnyman RJ Ledesma

**GREAT LOOKERS.** Paolo Villavicencio and Nicole Hernandez

**SOUTHERN** dude Dale Villar and delicious looker Nikki Muller

**FASHIONABLE** twosome Robby Mananquil and Valerie de los Santos, Ariana E. and her dad, photographer Tom Epperson, and Nicole Hernandez

**ED** Camello, Court of Appeals justice

**OTTA** Montinola and sister, hostess Marianne Oñate with husband Noel, Rosanna Fores and Carol Garcia

**BLUE BOYS.** DOTC Undersecretary Ricky Alfonso, Ed Tintoc, Enteng Mendoza and Metro Manila Development Authority general manager Robert Nacianceno

**MARY** Rose Veloso

**BPI** president Gigi Montinola and former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon

**GEORGINA** Cadwell and Tato Garcia

**RENE** Ongpin

**MELISSA** Castro

**MARBS** and Vicky Garcia

**MANOSHI** Gadi and Louie Jalandoni

KATE Moss, cited for her "Fashion Influence" AP

JOHN Varvatos with his trophy for Menswear Designer of the Year AP

# Vera Wang, John Varvatos picked as year's best fashion designers

From page G1

BCBG and their couture collection Max Azria Atelier, said her pleated seagreen gown was a collaboration.

Other celebrity fashion fans at the CFDA ceremony included Karan, who joined Sean "P. Diddy" Combs to present the award for emerging talent. Combs challenged each of the winners to dance on stage like he did last year when he won his first CFDA award.

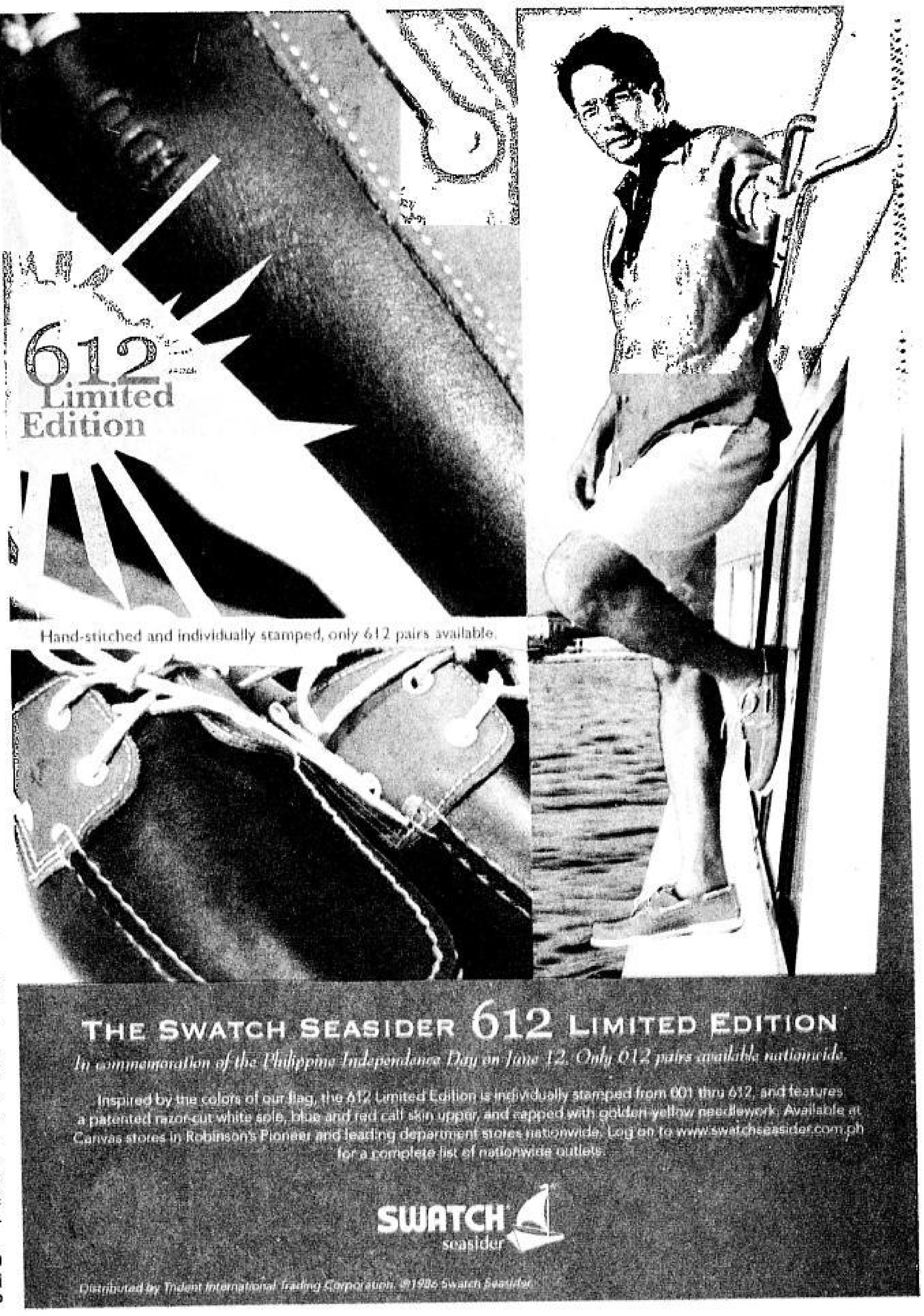
Womenswear winner Derek Lam told the audience—which included Joan Allen, Nicole Ritchie, a pregnant Heidi Klum, Mandy Moore, Iman, Marc Jacobs and Ralph Lauren—that, unfortunately, the two things he didn't feel comfortable doing in public were speaking and dancing. But he did a little jig with Combs, anyway.

Alexandre Plokhov won the Swarovski-Perry Ellis Award for emerging talent in menswear and jewelers Anthony Camargo and Nak Armstrong took the trophy as up-and-coming accessory designers.

Marc Jacobs was named accessory designer of the year for the third time. "I don't think of accessories as being different from fashion. It's all one thing," he said.

Other winners at the 24th annual awards included Elle publication director Gilles Bensimon for "shaping" fashion visually and Lanvin designer Alber Elbaz, who was given the International Award for making an outstanding creative contribution to the world of fashion. Norma Kamali, who said she was fully to blame for the shoulder-pad craze of the late 1970s, received a special tribute from the CFDA's board of directors.

Winners are selected by more than 450 fashion designers, press, retailers and stylists. *AP*



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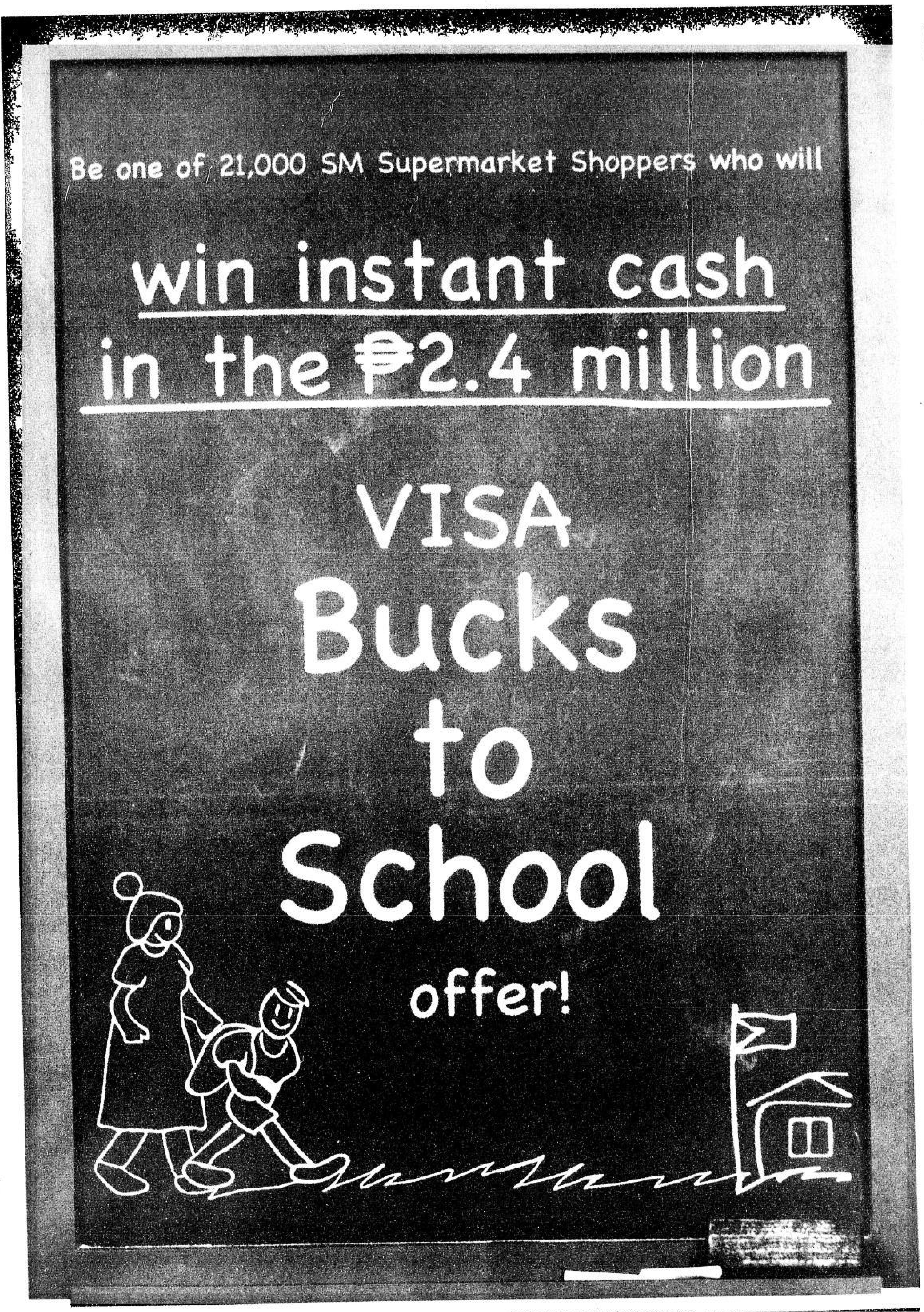

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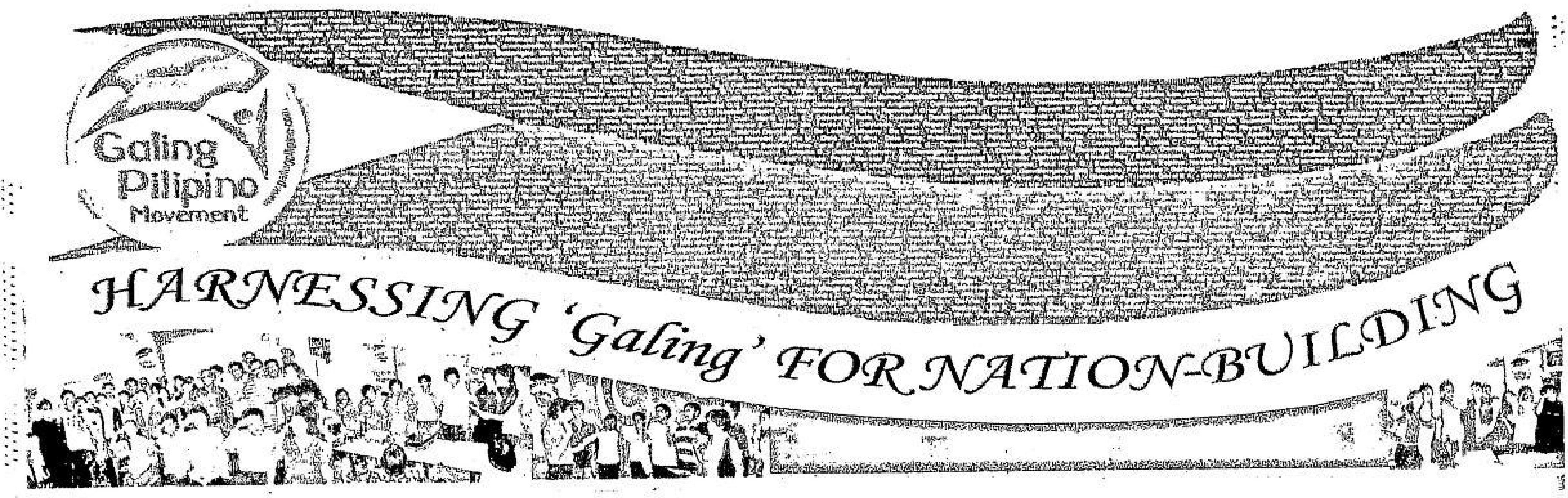


## HARNESSING 'Galing' FOR NATION-BUILDING

# A June 12 alternative theme

**By Tony Cruzada**

THE TRADITIONAL view of the theme and significance associated with Independence Day or Araw ng Kalayaan needs re-visiting. The document that covers the event celebrated on this date is one which says the Philippines is freed from Spanish rule and establishes it as a protectorate of the "Great North American Nation". This document expressed the official US policy regarding the Philippine Islands as its property. This policy is invoked to justify the 'inferior' treatment of Pilipino war veterans (vs. US counterparts) and has persisted even after the grant of (conditional) independence in 1945. While the US supported Japanese industrialization, it assigned to the Philippines the subordinate role of source of raw materials, frustrating attempts at Philippine Industrialization. Transferring the July 4 event to June 12 merely reinforces the subordinated status of the country and implies a willingness to stay under US domination. So what independence are we really celebrating?

Independence means freedom from any external influence. The concept is intrinsically tied with an external power. The notion of independence will therefore always carry the shadow of the external entity from which, or in reference to which, the country has become independent.

Autonomy or Kasarinlan, refers to one's capacity for self-determination and invokes the ability to decide for one's self or act from inner resources, without reference to any external entity. But it lacks the element of relationship and does not carry the notion of dialogue, interconnectedness and positive social relationships.

In this light, I propose that the proper theme for a June 12 celebration of our independence could be:

"Creating the country we want, we can be and deserve, on our own terms and after our own heart."

No reference to the colonial past and the present continuing domination by foreign economic and political powers: Panibagong pagbubuo ng sariling pagkabansa.

The corollary themes that would be relevant to national renewal and at the same time resonate the essential spirit and thrust of the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) denote celebrating the attributes that have distinguished the Pilipino universally and which have earned us the respect of other nationalities. This esteemed international regard and respect would be the counterpoint to foreign domination such as:

- The Pilipino's spontaneous empathy with others, even strangers. The ability to identify with others as if the others were family
- The Pilipino's wholehearted attention and service to those given to her/his care
- The essentially non-confrontational, non-combative and non-competitive nature of the Pilipino that offers opportunity for rapport and dialogue
- The capacity to endure and sacrifice self-interest for family
- The ease in adapting to different cultures, environments, languages, lifestyles, without losing his/her sense of the homeland
- The palpable "heart" and "soul" that a Pilipino puts into song and the other arts

These traits are admired abroad and we tend to lavish them on foreigners, even strangers. Sadly, these traits are taken for granted at home and held back from fellow Pilipinos. We fail to affirm one another as Pilipinos in our everyday lives. We fail to bestow grace upon one another through these marvelous qualities. We reserve our best selves for foreigners. We combine a strange mixture of adulation for celebrities and kowtowing to political leaders and fierce pakikisama in small cliques. All these are probably due to centuries of having to refer our collective lives to colonial masters and to their Pilipino surrogates. As a consequence, we have overlooked the solidarity we could build if only we applied these traits more consciously and pro-actively on one another. Thus, we fail to come together and work as a nation.

Since our political systems are nothing more than an extension of the neo-colonial rule, our hope lies in being able to recover our sense of collective self as Pilipinos starting with individuals and local communities. We should continue applying our best traits in foreign lands for that is a great advantage as far as our acceptance worldwide, but we must begin to lavish these traits on our kababayans, here in our homeland.

"Pahalagahan at pagyamanin ang ating 'Galing' bilang Pilipino habang pinaglilingkuran ang mundo"

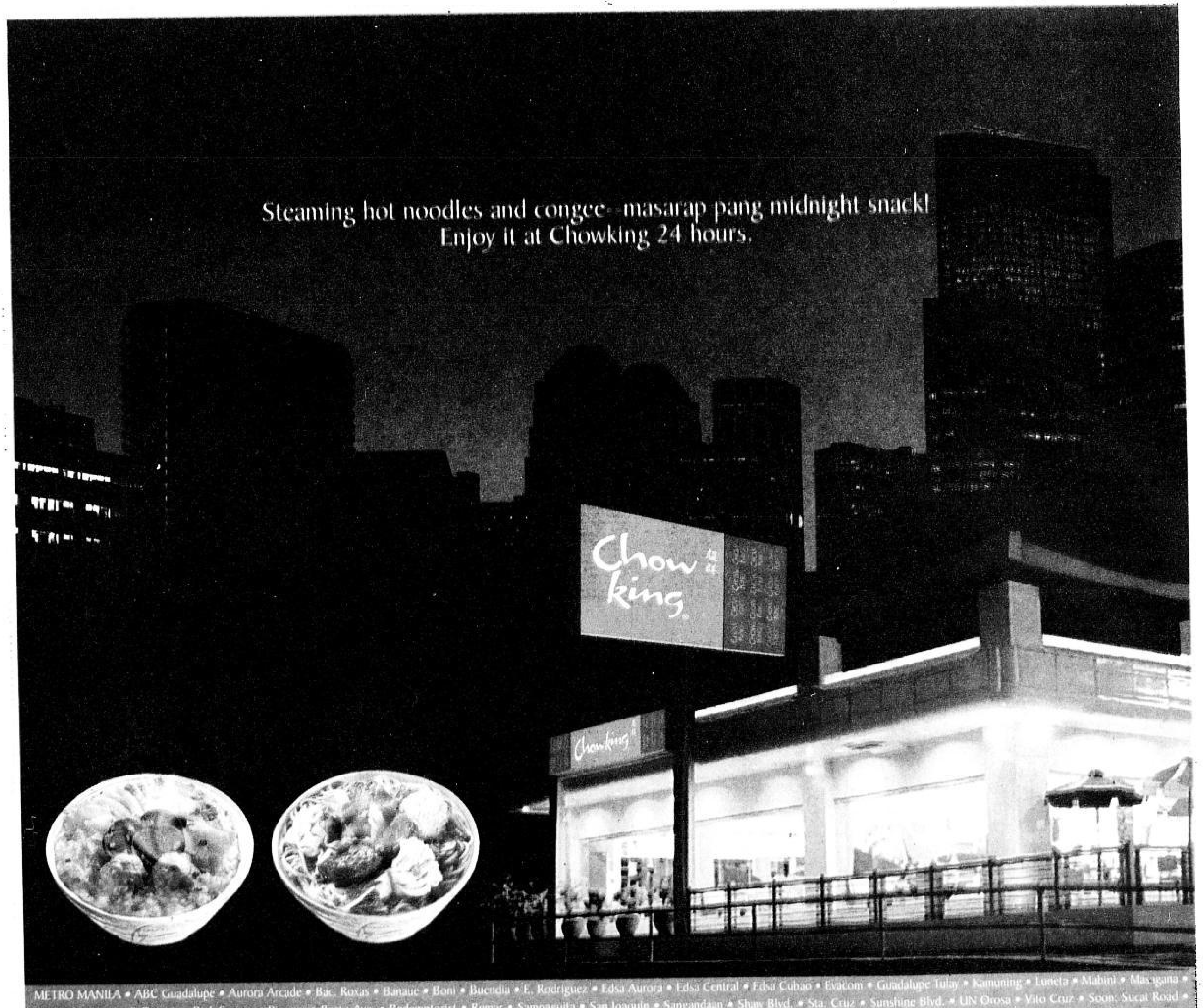
Our overarching goals could include:

1. Establishing a more humanizing social order to replace the prevailing oppressive and dominant paradigm. Our best traits, galing pilipino, tell us we have the leverage for this shift.
2. Paving the way for a Pilipino communitarian society or bayanihan as an alternative to totalitarianism on the one hand or to displacing our current system
3. Starting anew to create the nation we deserve, distinct from that imposed by neo-colonial powers. Our Katipunan experience shows us that our forebears have sown the seeds of a communitarian society built on the ethics of our ka-looban.

This June 12, 2005, we can re-grow that seed of nationalism. Let us.

### PRINSIPYONG Galing Pilipino

☐ Ang galing, sa sarili manggagaling.
☐ Kung ang galing ipamamalas, 'di ka dadatnan ng malas.
☐ Hindi kailangang trabaho'y sikat upang galing mo'y sumikat.
☐ Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa ang iyong hangarin, kahit maliit na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin.
☐ Sa lahat ng bagay, todo-bigay!
☐ Hanep sa hanapbuhay.
☐ Hangga't 'di sapat, 'di paawat.
☐ Anuman ang sumapit, tuloy sa pag-awit.
☐ May ibang paraan pa sa nakasanayan na.
☐ Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo saludo!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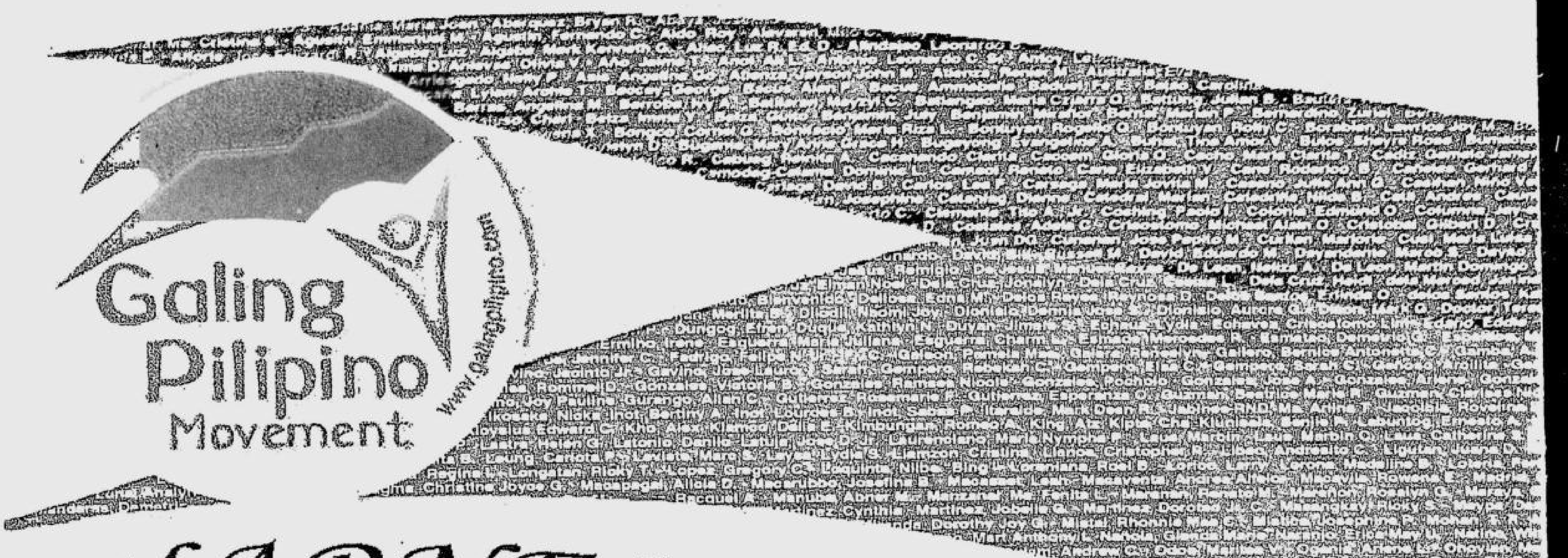


# HARNESSING ‘Galing’ F

by Erly de Guzman
GPM Founder and President

> ‘In this age of darkness, there are two ways of spreading light. You may either be a candle, or the mirror that reflects its light.’
>
> *- Ninoy Aquino, while in prison, wrote this in his December 30, 1977 letter to Jose Antonio Gonzalez.*

AS a nation, and as a people, are we getting better? Or are we getting worse?

As of yesterday, some 2,272 Pilipinos have exercised their Freedom of Choice and enlisted in the Galing Pilipino Movement staunchly believing that there is much good and *galing* in Pilipinos and in being Pilipino. Each one of them has had a mission order to bestow a serial-numbered Galing Pilipino Award sticker with a matching citation sheet, to some Pilipino who has done something they regarded as *galing*. It is a purposive way to write history... our history. The incidents and circumstances that characterize the awards given are, as a matter of fact, incontrovertible. Some thing happened, some one achieved, some body did the *galing* deed --- and we want to recognize, affirm and propagate these ‘moments of truth’.

So, to answer the question --- and to steer it from being merely a rhetorical matter --- let each Kwentong Galing, let each Galing Pilipino awardee and awarder, let each day of GPM's three year track record resound in the affirmative. As a nation and as a people, we have what it takes to create the kind of Philippines we can be proud of. Check out our website www.galingpilipino.com or attend any of our monthly GP Kapihans or Galing Pilipino seminars and know for yourself what we mean. There is a lot of *galing* happening around us. Imbibe the spirit and spread it.

Keeping to this course of thinking, believing and living is not easy. The key to keeping the course of going for what is good and *galing* about being Pilipino and about Pilipinos is FOCUS --- we choose to give importance and put the spotlight on ordinary Pilipinos doing ordinary things in an extraordinary *galing* way. GPM celebrates the significance of June 12, both as an anniversary date of the conscious choice we made three years ago to root for Galing Pilipino and as a testament to the *galing* we are as the first Asian nation to declare independence from a western colonizer and as the first duly constituted democratic republic in Asia.

And what should we do about the glaring face of corruption, greed and mediocrity in our midst? How about we try and drown them out by osmosis? Ponder the possibility of creating a national turnaround built one person at a time, one family at a time, one street at a time and so on. Beyond political will, it is really a matter of ‘I will’. Let us affirm the do-gooder, celebrate his/her exceptional *galing*, extract the lessons and learnings and teach them to others. Let us create a contagion... an epidemic that will

- Propagate the pioneering values that made the pre-colonial ‘Pilipino’ an honorable race. Let us harness the *galing* evidenced by our Banaue Rice Terraces which were built with the dignity of labor by free men --- people whose sense of survival and accomplishment resonates with kusa (spirit of volunteerism and self-sacrifice). This man-made monument testifies of the resiliency and innovativeness of our forefathers. This was, and still is, a life-giving engineering marvel, not merely an aesthetic tourist attraction. Let us let the seed of that Life grow in us today. If that seed isn't there, try a transplant or an implant.
- Debunk the social conditioning that colonization brought upon us. ‘A is for apple’ should be as good as ‘A is for Abaca’. Let us re-visit our heritage through education and participation. Try GPM's YugYog TugTog Pinoy Dance Music Workshops led by UP professor Edru Abraham and Kontra-Gapi. GPM did a roadshow in VisMin with the help of SuperFerry and Chowking last week. For 11 days, our 30-man contingent held 29 events that wowed on land and on sea. Kids and adults learned to appreciate our indigenous instruments and native dance movements. They were made to play and dance as well. For many, it was a revelation of how ‘cool and galing’ our sariling atin can be, how potent the prospect that Galing Pilipino performers here and abroad can evolve our own dance craze or world music. In conjunction with the bed and breakfast program of GPM's Bisita Pilipinas, Natural Farming practitioner Andry Lim and Victoria Hotel Manager Bong Banan imparted their expertise in agri-business and in housekeeping.
- Breed the Galing Pilipino generation. And this weekend, as GPM celebrates its 3rd anniversary, we are exalted by the fact that many youth of the land have taken charge of our programs and projects. Galing Pilipino youth will take the lead in several of the simultaneous GP Kapihans that will be taking place on June 11, 8-11 a.m. Ryan will handle Marikina, Myron initiated Taytay, Jessie will take the lead in Madison, Greenhills. Bruce will be handling Asia Pacific College, Marvin will give life to Cavite, Giandi is helping out in Cebu and 12 and 13-year olds will take centerstage in sharing in Butuan. Catch Carlito, a Manobo youth and 24-year Track and Field Gold Star Arniel at GP Kapihan in Baguio on June 15. This is marvelous to behold. Moreso, it is exhilarating to experience their involvement in translating GPM's visionary project, Bisita Pilipinas, into real community-based enterprises around the country.

I've said too much. Or maybe I've said too little. Depends how you wish to look at things. There is still so much more to tell. It's time for me to wrap up and for you, to stop reading. It's time for action. Let us harness *galing* for nation-building. Tara na!

ERLY DE GUZMAN

PEDRO ROXAS

RAMON GARCIA

AKIKO THOMSON

ARCHIE KING

DING SALVADOR

BERNIE LIU

NONOY NILES

TITO PANLILIO

VIVIAN YUCHENGCO

## *PANATA NG KAS*

*Ako ay taos pusong naniniwala sa mga layunin at mi*
*ng Galing Pilipino Movement*

*Bilang tapat ng kasapi ng Galing Pilipino Movemer*
*ibabantayog ko ang mga tagumpay at galing ng aking*
*kapwa Pilipino mula sa iba-ibang antas ng buhay*
*at iba-ibang larangan ng gawain.*

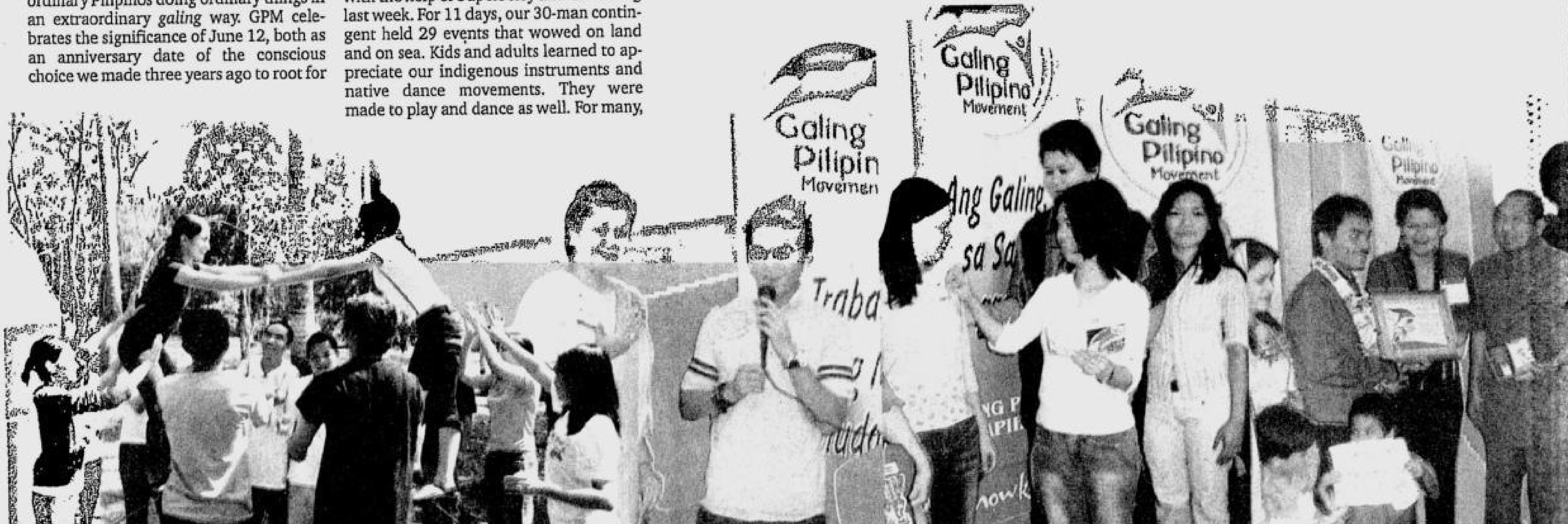
*Sisikapin kong ipakita sa ating mga kababayan*
*at sa buong mundo, na ang Pilipino ay magaling*
*at siya ay bahagi ng isang dakilang lahi.*

*Sisikapin kong ipabatid sa ating mga kababayan at sa*
*mundo, na dumadaloy sa ugat ng Pilipino*
*ang dugo ng kabayanihan.*

*Sa sarili kong buhay, tutularan ko ang mga halimbı*
*ng ating mga bayani*
*at mga kahanga-hangang mamamayan.*

*Lahat ng aking ginagawa at magagawa*
*para sa kabutihan at kaunlaran ng lipunan*
*ay aking inaalay sa ating inang bayan,*
*at sa Kapangyarihan lumikha sa ating lahat.*

*Isinulat ni Jun Cabochan, GPM Founding Member*



**CELEBRATING FREEDOM THE GALING PILIPINO WAY.** GPM celebrated its 2nd anniversary through simultaneous GP Kapihans in 13 sites nationwide. Forum speakers included pandesal entrepreneur Julie Gandiongco of the phenomenal Julie's Bakeshop in GP Kapihan-Cebu, renowned filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik in GP Kapihan-Baguio, and blind Ateneo summa cum laude graduate Roselle Ambubuyog in GP Kapihan-Mandaluyong, among others. GPM membership reached 1,494 on its second year.

**DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIONS MARKETPLACE.** World Bank Country Director Joaquim von Amsberg and Aus-Aid Philippine-Australian Community Assistance Program Manager Lourdes Padilla gave good reviews of GPM's Panibagong Paraan winning project at Lapu-Lapu City dumpsite. The project showcased the "babuyan na di amoy baboy" - waterless, stink-less piggery which applied the GPM Natural Farming System, and the innovative plastic waste recycling project, a home décor sewing enterprise using recycled plastics collected from the dumpsite.

**REVIVING THE HERO IN EVERY PILIPINO.** GPM commemorated National Heroes Day with a whole week-end full of activities: GPM volunteers planted 400 trees to reforest La Mesa Dam watershed in a 1.5 hectare site; a nationwide essay writing contest on "Who is the hero for today's young Pilipino?" GPM aired its first full-hour radio special at DZRH. GPM clubs or I-Gilas (Ilabas ang Gilas) Centers were first launched in schools and universities with companies like Caltex and Chowking signing up as Corporate I-Gilas Centers.

**BUILDING THE GALING GENERATION.** Select Fifty (50) student leaders from around the country joined the GP Young Leaders Camp 2004 at Hotel La Corona de Pagsanjan in Laguna. They learned leadership and pride of nation through unique actvity like their overnight bonding session with orphaned kids.

Teamwork and trust were forged at the rope course challenge. These GP Young Leader campers now form GPM's youth volunteer core.

**CHRISTMAS WITH A DIF**
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# OR NATION-BUILDING

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## Kuro-kuro, haka-haka at mga kwentong galing

GPM's Year 3 will kick off with simultaneous Galing Pilipino Kapihans around the country on the theme "Kusang Galing" on June 11, Saturday, 8 to 11 a.m. The spirit of volunteerism is at the 'bayanihan' heart of the Pilipino. Hear why and how many Galing Pilipinos exemplify a life of selfless service to others.

GP KAPIHAN sa Asia Pacific College
Magallanes Village, Makati City

Max Bernardo, a businessman, organized a volunteer fire brigade in his community. Sonny Medina of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines has committed his time for children's causes. SEA Games' Track and Pield Gold Star Arniel Ferrera will share his life story. Hear the young kids of Kontra-Gapi share about YugYog TugTog Pinoy.

GP KAPIHAN sa Madison Square
Chowking -Madison, Greenhills, San Juan

Giovanni Bautista, a youthful archaeologist will talk about his involvement in volunteer programs and activities, ranging from youth to outreach activities. Cecil Castillo, a cancer survivor, volunteers as an educator in the Faith and Light Community, an organization for special children. She is also the chair of the National Orthopedic Hospital School for Crippled Children.

GP KAPIHAN ng SK Federation of Manila
Bahay Kubo, Manila Zoo

To usher in the 'Galing Pilipino Generation,' GPM in partnership with the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of Manila, will feature empowered Pilipinos. Susan Vidal, author, poet, youth programs volunteer, trainor and businesswoman with a cause and Chito dela Vega, editor-in-chief of Philippine Daily Inquirer-Libre will share their life's lessons on survival and courage with selfless and dedicated service to others. Shining examples. of Galing Pilipino Prinsipyo "hanggat di sapat, 'di paaawat."

GP KAPIHAN ng Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Muti-Purpose Hall BSP, Natividad Lopez Street, Ermita Manila

"Always be prepared." This motto of the Boys Scouts of the Philippines will be revived as, Kristine Joy Santos of the Benedictine Volunteer Program and Jay A. Yacat, VP of the Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino, talks about volunteerism and their ability to hurdle difficulties amidst challenging circumstances. Indeed, their stories exemplify the GP dictum "and galing sa sarili manggagaling."

GP KAPIHAN sa Marikina
Brgy. Hall Industrial Valley, Marikina City

Learn the joy of volunteerism as Timothy Gabuna, president of Philippine Association Volunteers Agency and Maria Johanna Pia G. Ortiz Luis of the Jesuit Volunteer Philippines Foundation Inc (JVPFI) share their experiences and testimonies.

GP KAPIHAN sa Taytay
Municipal Bldg. Sumulong St., Taytay, Rizal

Meet Leonel Gonzaga, executive director and chief operating officer of Voice of the Youth Network as he recounts how a youth oriented volunteer network is involved in comprehensive nation building and volunteerism. Hear Edwin Chine Monares, founder of Save Me Movement( Student's Actions Vital to Environment and Mother) speak about nature preservation and conservation.

GP KAPIHAN sa Pampanga
Hotel Victoria de San Fernando, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Learn from professor Edru Abraham about our rich cultural heritage. Discover the secret of his staying power in volunteer work in cultural education for the past 16 years. Find out success secrets of home grown businesses in Pampanga like Sylvia's Restaurant, Jason Ads, Henry Sanchez Photography and the like.

GP KAPIHAN sa Quezon
Chowking -Candelaria, Tiaong, Quezon

Hear Bobbie Lagman speak about her transforming life story as she has pursued her nationalistic causes through the years. Find out how volunteers Joji Gamboa and Sister Insiang have found fulfillment in community building among the farmers of Quezon.

GP KAPIHAN sa Cavite
Christian Values School, Km 18 Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite

Find out how youth leader Marvin Laus and Rotaract volunteers help transform their communities into showcases of excellence.

GP KAPIHAN sa Cebu City
People's Support Center, Asia Town IT Center, Lahug, Cebu

Be inspired by the GPM Cebu awardees like Ingrid Cabrera, a 19-year old janitress who returned P95,000 found in the cinema she was cleaning. Hear about business success stories of people who have a social responsibility at heart.

GP KAPIHAN sa Butuan City
Chowking Butuan, Butuan City

Marvel at how high school freshmen, 12- and 13-year old students at Abba's Orchard School, wowed their parents and the school owner, Cris Barrameda, with their successful piggery business that they nurtured from start to finish in one year with 20 percent profit.

GP KAPIHAN sa Baguio on June 15 (Wednesday) 9 a.m. -12 noon Chowking-SM Baguio, Baguio City

Be inspired by young achievers who pursued what they do best: Multi-talented Kontra-Gapi performer, sculptor and painter Carlitos Kamahalan Amalia of the Manobo tribe of Agusan del Norte; Philippine bet for the SEA Games track and field Arniel Ferrera; and Olympian archer Jasmine Figueroa.

### Membership Form

Galing Pilipino Movement

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [ ] | Regular Member | PhP 100 |
| [ ] | Donor Member | PhP 1,000 |
| [ ] | Patron Member | PhP 10,000 |
| [ ] | Benefactor Member | PhP 50,000 |
| [ ] | Partner Member | PhP 100,000 |

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____________________
Telephone / Fax ____________________
Cellphone ____________________
Email ____________________
Birthday ____________________
Company / School ____________________
Occupation ____________________

For membership or donations,
please deposit to GPM Foundation, Inc.
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at any Union Bank Branch nationwide

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Unit 252 Cityland Pioneer Condominiu, Pioneer Street
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Telephone 632.631.3932 * Telefax 632.633.1089
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## ENT YEAR 3 MILESTONES

January 05

FERENCE. For the sec- askong Galing Pilipino ng light bulbs and giant onation. Proceeds of do- five (5) causes: Bisita scholarships for public , Microfinance fund for teer Fund for teachers Caregiver center for the

**NEW GPM BOARD OF TRUSTEES.** The GPM Foundation Board welcomed two (2) new trustees: Ms. Vivian Yuchengco and Mr. Archie King. GPM was also given a grant from the Peace and Equity Foundation for its media advocacy project. GPM Board Chairman Pedro Roxas hosted a Strategic Planning Workshop at Punta Fuego. GPM was commissioned by the Dentista Inc to conduct a Team Building Workshop with a nationalistic flavor. Ms. Selene Yu of the Potters Leadership Academy conducted an S-Leadership Seminar for GPM Leaders.

March 05

**ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE.** GPM won the Anvil Award of Excellence for Corporate and Institutional Programs-Special Events Category for its Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2003 fund drive. GPM was awarded for the unique strategy of using colored light bulbs and 20' Christmas trees as the medium of donation for five (5) causes: red bulbs for Red Cross, green bulbs for Bantay-Kalikasan, blue bulbs for Peacebuild Mindanao, yellow bulbs to SOS Children's Villages and white bulbs for Caregiver Centers for the Elderly.

May 05

**GPM VIS-MIN ROADSHOW.** GPM brought U.P. Professor Edr Abraham and the Kontemporaryong Gamelan Pilipino to Butuan City, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte and Cebu City for dance-music workshops and concerts to promote Yugyog TugTog Pinoy - a unique song-dance fusion of pop and indigenous genres. GPM also brought businessman Andry Lim to give GPM Natural Farming Seminars and Hotel Victoria Manager Bong Banan to teach Galing Housekeeping, as part of GPM's Bisita Pilipinas program.

*Maraming salamat po! Galing Pilipino Movement is honored to have shared these many "firsts" with you ...*

To date, 2,272 individuals have joined this faith-building effort and enabled us to reach these milestones. These GPM volunteers make up the "good-behavior police force", who are on the look-out for individuals manifesting the "Galing Pilipino" ideals in their work and character.

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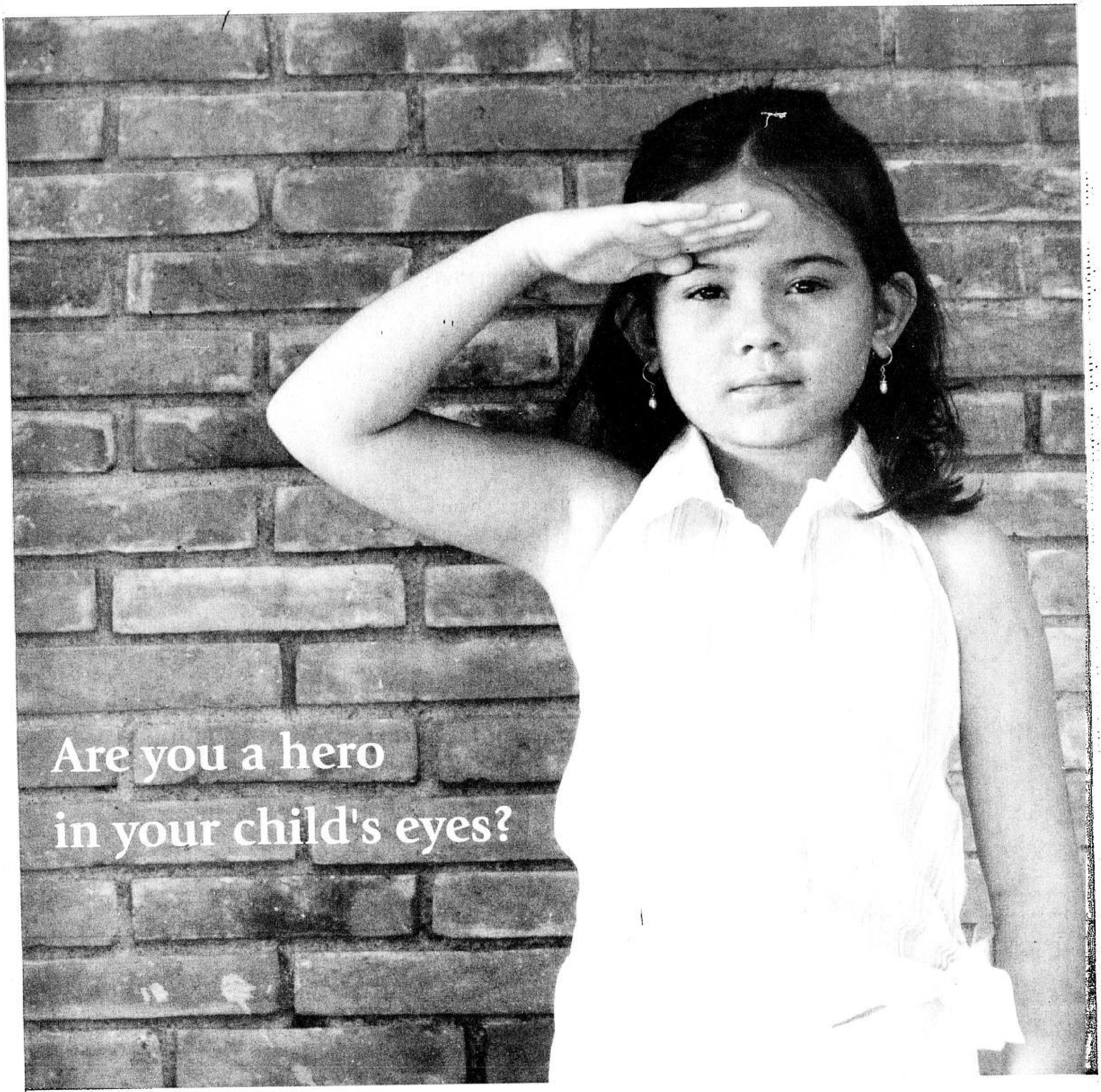

Heroes affect the lives of people long after they are gone. To a child, a hero would have taught her values that would benefit her for life. He would have provided for her future... for that time, no one knows, when she has to make it alone.

A life insurance plan like the Sun Exclusive is all you need to make sure she grows up and goes on to follow her dreams.

Be your child's hero.
**Carry the torch with a Sun Exclusive today.**

For more information about how Sun Exclusive can help you,
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